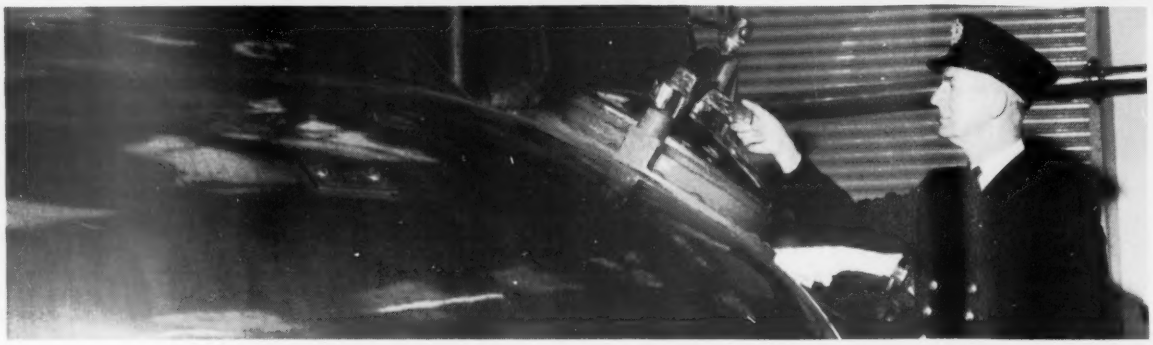
Trade and Industry

23 February 1979 Every Friday 40p



Customs notices of interest to exporters

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Trade and Industry

23 February 1979

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

In recent years, Britain's nationalised industries have been making an increasing contribution to exports. Trade secretary John Smith outlines the trend in a special report (centre pages).

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HOME

Booth to expand employment measures

Expansion of the Manpower Services Commission's (MSC) youth opportunities programme, special temporary employment programme, and community industry scheme to provide up to 300 000 opportunities for unemployed young people and adults was announced by employment secretary Albert Booth on Tuesday.

These special employment measures will be available from 1 April. The job release scheme is to continue for a further year.

Mr Booth also announced the replacement of the temporary employment subsidy, which closes for applications on 31 March, with a national scheme to encourage employers to use short-time working as an alternative to redundancies. Subject to consultation and the approval of parliament, this temporary scheme will enable workers on short-time to be paid 75 per cent of their normal pay for each day's work lost and their employers will be fully compensated by the Department of Employment.

The subsidy will be paid for up to 12 months and is open to both private and public sectors.

It was proposed, Mr Booth said, to introduce, as soon as possible, an additional labour subsidy related to wage levels for the private sector which could be made available in some restructuring situations with the aim of preserving jobs which would otherwise disappear.

The MSC is to expand the youth opportunities programme to provide 100 000 to 120 000 filled places by the end of this year. A programme of this size will enable between 230 000 and 250 000 young people to have opportunities in the course of the next financial year – an increase of about 40 per cent over the present year's targets.

The new target for the special temporary employment programme is to provide between 30 000 and 35 000 filled places by March 1980. This should enable between 40 000 and 50 000 adults, particularly those who have been unemployed for relatively long periods of time, to enter the programme during the financial year. Places in the community industry scheme are increased to 7 000 from 5 500.

Maximum levels of funding for schemes under the special programmes have been increased from 29 January. MSC contribution towards setting up and running costs of the special temporary employment programme is increased from £225 to £300 per place for a full year. Contributions towards the capital costs of setting up youth opportunities programme training workshops have been increased from £300 to £500 per place or 90 per cent of the total capital cost, whichever is less.

Richard O'Brien, chairman of MSC, said 'Since 1 April last year some 110 000 young people have had opportunities within the youth opportunities programme.'

Unemployment at 5.9 per cent

Unemployed persons in Great Britain on 8 February totalled 1 387 761, representing 5.9 per cent of employees. This total, published by the Department of Employment on Tuesday, includes 36 723 school leavers under 18 not yet employed.

The seasonally adjusted series shows that the number of unemployed, excluding school leavers, was 1 302 000 (5.6 per cent of all employees), an increase of 21 900 since 11 January. In the last three months, there has been an increase on average of 6800 a month.

The number of vacancies notified to employment offices remaining unfilled on 2 February was 214 823, an increase of 1234 since last month. The number of vacancies notified to careers offices was 23 186, a decrease of 1981 since last month. The seasonally adjusted series shows that the number of vacancies notified to employment offices was 229 800, a decrease of 4800 since January 1979.

The average number joining the unemployment register in the three months ending January was 361 000 per month compared with 387 000 in the three months ending October and 391 000 in the three months ending July 1978. The average numbers leaving the register in these three periods were 363 000, 395 000 and 394 000 per month respectively.

The average inflow of vacancies in the three months ending January was 219 000 per month compared with 238 000 in the three months ending October and 229 000 in the three months ending July 1978. The average outflows in the three periods were 215 000, 232 000 and 231 000 per month respectively.

Dispute losses being made up

About 10 per cent of normal manufacturing production may have been lost between 7 January and 10 February as a result of the transport disputes. This estimate, based on early reports from industry, was given by Alan Williams, minister for industry, in parliament on Monday.

Answering questions about the effects of the disputes on industry, Mr Williams said that it was difficult to say with certainty when industrial production would return to normal, but by the week ending 10 February production was back towards 95 per cent of normal. He believed production might rise above normal in the next few weeks as some of the lost production was made up.

Estimated number of lay-offs rose to a peak of some 235 000 around 30 January at the height of the disruption. The last estimate made was of 85 000 laid off on 5 February. It was believed that virtually all those who were temporarily laid off as a result of the transport disputes would by this week have been recalled by their employers.

Smith's Dock to cease operations at Haverton Hill

Smith's Dock Company is to cease operations at Haverton Hill shipyard because work has run out. The company, which made the announcement after consultations with British Shipbuilders, said that every effort had been made to find new work for the yard but in the world recession this had not proved possible.

Ninety days' notice is being given to employees at the yard and consultations with the trade unions have already started at national level. Immediate consultations with the Teesside Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions will be arranged with a view to trying to mitigate hardship, although it is envisaged that about 900 employees will be made redundant. However all apprentices at Haverton Hill will be found alternative training places at South Bank yard. Every effort will be made to assist men to find alternative work locally.

Petrol from coal studies go-ahead

Government is to provide up to £800,000 towards the cost of preliminary work on pilot plants to make petrol and chemical feedstocks from coal. The money has been given under an

agreement signed on Monday between the government and the National Coal Board.

In reply to a parliamentary question on Monday, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy Alex Eadie said that the government was providing the NCB with up to two-thirds of the cost of design studies, technical support and evaluation of bids for the construction of two 25-tonne-per-day pilot plants.

The pilot plants will be aimed at the production of chemical feedstocks and the full range of transport fuels, using the NCB's liquid solvent extraction and supercritical gas solvent extraction processes described in the tripartite group report 'Coal technology – future developments in conversion, utilisation and unconventional mining in the UK'.

The full design study phase will last about 18 months, when a further agreement will be considered for the construction phase, estimated to cost £30 million. If that phase is initiated the government is prepared to contribute up to £20 million.

Task force to advise small Scottish firms

A task force of nine business executives has been appointed to help and advise small firms throughout Scotland. Gregor MacKenzie, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, introduced the first recruits when he launched a small business counselling service in Edinburgh on Monday.

The task force will diagnose problems in companies and give advice on how to overcome them. It will have a special remit to help anyone setting up in business. The work, which will be chargeable, will be an extension of the full-time advisory and financial services offered at present by the Scottish Development Agency's small business division.

The counsellors appointed so far have experience in the fields of consultancy, accounting, aviation, retail, plastics, photography, bakery and textiles. Counsellors will have no fixed territories, but will be called in wherever their experience will be of benefit.

OVERSEAS

Japan's engineers get top jobs

Engineers are in the second highest paid profession in Japan, after medical practitioners. They fill nearly 70 per cent of top executive positions in Japanese industry.

These facts were presented by John Prentice, counsellor for science and technology at Britain's embassy in Tokyo, on Monday. He was giving the press a preview of the briefing on technological developments in Japan he is giving to British businessmen at a series of regional seminars in the UK during February and March.

The Japanese definition of 'engineer' covers all people who are applied scientists in any field. Their high status in Japan is related, in the view given by Mr Prentice of how Japanese industry works, to the worldwide success of the country's products. A typical industrial board of directors' principal concerns are, in order: staff, particularly the engineers; market share of its products; the company's reputation; and then profits.

Japanese industrialists' strategy is to aim for world markets at the outset with a narrow range of products. The approach is to develop a sound basic product, with the emphasis on quality and quantity, to establish the market. Development of the market is then based upon product evolution, rather than innovation into new products.

For the future, Mr Prentice sees an increasing drive towards automated production in Japanese industry. This is seen in Japan as the best way to compete successfully with both the highly industrialised countries and those with low labour costs. The objective is the virtually unmanned factory, run by a few engineers.

Having already visited Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester, Mr Prentice is to attend seminars at Loughborough, 27 February; Leeds, 1 March; Newcastle upon Tyne, 6 March; Glasgow, 8 March; London, 12 March; and Cardiff, 14 March. Information about these seminars is available from the respective regional offices of the Department of Industry.

Development minister in Bonn

Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, visited Bonn on Tuesday for talks on aid matters with Rainer Offergeld, West German Minister for Economic Co-operation.

The two ministers covered aid issues in the context of EEC, including the renegotiation of the Lomé convention; a general review of developments in the north/south dialogue; multilateral assistance; and bilateral aid matters including the problems of identifying poverty-oriented programmes and projects.

Mrs Hart returned to London on Wednesday.

Eric Varley leaves on Concorde for China visit

Industry secretary Eric Varley left London airport aboard Concorde for Singapore on Monday. On 24 February, he is to begin his visit to China at the head of a party of senior officials and businessmen (*Trade and Industry*, 16 February, page 320).

EUROPE

Interest rate subsidies' regulation

European commission vice-president François-Xavier Ortoli introduced a commission proposal for a regulation on interest rate subsidies for certain loans for structural purposes at the finance council on Monday.

This proposal was part of the European council's resolution, issued on 5 December last year, on the setting up of the European monetary system. Several finance ministers voiced their initial reactions to the commission proposal, but the council is to examine it in more detail after receiving the European parliament's opinion, expected in March. In the meanwhile, technical examination of the dossier is to begin.

The council exchanged views on the community's economic situation. Finance ministers outlined in particular the latest economic developments in their countries.

The council also agreed on the statement which the commission president Roy Jenkins will make on behalf of the community at the next meeting of the International Monetary Fund interim committee, scheduled for 7 March in Washington.

Home news

Williams tells Japanese: Britain a market base for Europe

Britain is providing a sound base for investors breaking into the European market. This point was made by Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, at the Japanese press agency seminar in London on 15 February.

Mr Williams said that increasing protectionism and an appreciating yen were encouraging Japanese companies in particular to set up manufacturing plants in Europe. The UK offered a base for investors which, by virtue of energy reserves, was protected against future energy shocks similar to the disruption of oil supplies at the time of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. Japan's experience of recession in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis would make it readily understand the great value Britain placed on North Sea oil resources.

Alone among the industrial nations the UK was self-sufficient in energy. In addition to oil, there were enough coal reserves to last 300 years at the present rate of consumption. Britain was among the world's leaders in advanced nuclear technology, and had good supplies of natural gas. All these meant that Britain could take long-term decisions about the development of the economy and create the right kind of stable environment in which manufacturing industry could develop and flourish.

There was an excellent and highly flexible range of government financial incentives to offer potential investors and something more was offered to companies setting up operations in the UK. Mr Williams said that he thought that all Japanese companies now in the UK would readily testify to the interest that had been taken in their welfare and the trouble taken by the authorities to deal with any problems they might encounter.

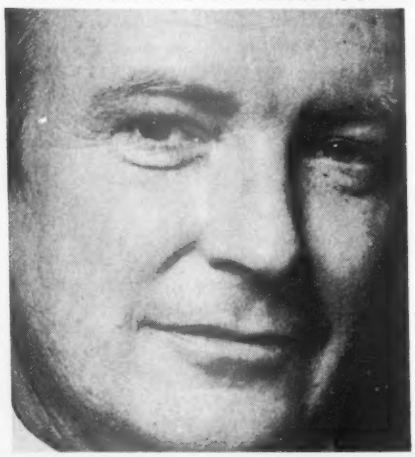
Mr Williams went on to point out the scope that remained for Japanese investment. Compared with the 1000 enterprises in the UK with United States' parentage and the 150 enterprises from Germany in manufacturing industry, the current figure of 12 from Japan was extremely small.

Japan, of course, did not have the same tradition of investment overseas that these, and other countries including Britain, had. It was believed that Japanese business people required a patient programme of work to help them understand the advantages of the UK and to help them over their initial problems. For that reason, the Department of Industry was giving increasing attention to Japan and there would be a considerable strengthening of the effort devoted to Japan by the Invest in Britain Bureau.

This special effort to attract industrial investment from Japan would be given a boost later this month with the arrival of a trade mission to the UK sponsored by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). Although primarily concerned with increasing imports of British goods into Japan, the mission, which was to start work on 26 February, would include a team devoted to studying prospects for Japanese investment in industry in the UK.

This was the first time that an inward investment aspect had been given to a trade mission and could be regarded as a significant new development. It indicated the support that MITI itself was giving to the view that Japanese investment in the UK was good, not only for the UK, but also for the Japanese economy. Apart from increased imports of consumer goods by Japan, a steady increase in the Japanese manufacturing presence in Europe would do more to dismantle the remaining psychological and economic barriers between Europe and Japan than anything else.

Williams: investment will dismantle barriers.



New system of measuring alcoholic content

Alcoholic strength is to be expressed by volume or by mass in future. Regulations published on 16 February begin to implement an EEC directive due to come into force on 1 January 1980.

The directive is based on a recommendation of the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (Oiml), of which the United Kingdom is a member, and is designed to make things easier for Britain's international trade and cut down the likelihood of confusion and mistakes in converting measurements between overseas and British systems.

The present British system, used for spirits, liqueurs and fortified wines, is the Sikes proof system, which expresses the strength of such alcoholic beverages as so many degrees of proof.

The new regulations provide definitions of alcoholic strengths by volume and by mass, the symbols or abbreviations to be used, and give statutory basis to the tables to be used. The tables have been produced by computer from the formulae given in the annex to the directive and are published by the EEC commission.

The Oiml system will involve the measurement of the temperature of a mixture of ethanol (alcohol) and water and of its specific gravity with a glass alcohol hydrometer made to EEC specification. The specific gravity value is corrected to 20° C by means of the tables and the alcoholic strength by volume is established.

Comparisons of degrees of proof and strength by volume are:

Table wines	14 to 26°	8 to 15%
Fortified wines (eg port, sherry)	26 to 38½°	15 to 22%
Spirits (eg whisky, rum)	70°	40%
Polish spirit	140°	80%

Beer and water prices frozen

Investigations into price increases proposed by Bass Ltd, Whitbread and Co Ltd, and the Welsh Water Authority were announced by the Price Commission on 16 February. This means that price increases are frozen during the three-month period of investigation unless the commission decides to grant an interim increase. Following the passing of the Price Commission (Amendment) Act on 12 February (see page 359), firms no longer have the automatic right to interim increases under the safeguard regulations.

Bass (formerly Bass Charrington) had notified increases of 7.94 per cent on the wholesale price of its range of beers and 7.90 per cent on beer and other sales in its managed houses. Whitbread had notified increases of 5.65 per cent on the wholesale price of its beers, wines, spirits, soft drinks and ciders, and of 8.82 per cent on beer, wines, food and accommodation in managed houses.

The Welsh Water Authority had notified increases averaging 15 per cent over the main water services – water supply, sewerage and environmental services. The average increase in the total for the domestic consumer is estimated at 14.9 per cent. Because of a change in the charging structure, some individual

charges for consumers with a metered water supply will be greater or less than average.

After considering the proposed increases by the three concerns, the commission decided that they should be the subject of investigations under section 4 of the Price Commission Act 1977. The commission has notified the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection that it intends to hold the investigations.

Anyone who wishes to make representations to the commission on any of the investigations should write to the Secretary, Price Commission, Market Towers, 1 Nine Elms Lane, London SW8.

Butlins agrees to freeze prices

Butlins is to restrict increases in tariffs charged at the company's eight main holiday centres to an average of 9 per cent until 19 September.

This follows a Price Commission report published on 15 February ('Price Commission investigation – Butlins Ltd – tariffs of the main holiday centres in the United Kingdom', HMSO, 80p) on its investigation into increases in holiday tariffs proposed by the company, which has been received by prices secretary Roy Hattersley. The proposed increases averaging 14.4 per cent were completely restricted during the investigation. The commission recommended that the increases should now be restricted to an average of 9 per cent until 19 September 1979 (12 months from the date they were notified to the commission). The company has now offered the secretary of state a formal undertaking to restrict increases, which Mr Hattersley has accepted.

Holidaymakers at Butlins' holiday camps will now be paying less this summer than they would otherwise have done. A family of four staying for a week at one of the main camps will save about £5.

Butlins originally maintained that the price increases sought were necessary to recover costs and to finance the investment programme planned for the next five years in their main holiday centres.

Considerable programme

Even though Butlins has carried out a considerable programme of capital expenditure over the past few years, much remains to be done. The commission does not accept, however, that the full cost of the remaining investment programme should continue to be borne by holidaymakers directly. Since much of this investment will increase Butlins' profit potential, the commission takes the view that any shortfall in the financing of this programme would more properly be made up by additional investment capital from the Rank Group, to which Butlins belongs, rather than by increases in tariffs.

'At least the effect of the cold spell hasn't been *all* bad!'

The economy: government-TUC joint statement

The need for greater industrial accountability and democracy, and the fundamental importance of increasing productivity were among the main objectives of the joint government-TUC statement outlined in the commons by the Prime Minister on 14 February (see box).

A better way of reaching a consensus on the economic path was the concern of the joint statement, he explained. Anxiety about employment prospects was jointly recognised, as was the need for training so that workers would possess the skills to match new technological developments.

It was agreed that industrial regeneration could not rely on market forces alone and that there was a need for action by industry, the government and trade unions. Mr Callaghan said that the document emphasised that there should be a close working understanding between government and the TUC and that the proper handling of this relationship imposed on the TUC the need to accept that its expanding role carried with it wider responsibilities.

Attached to the paper ('The economy, the government and trade union responsibilities: joint statement by the TUC and the government, February 1979, HMSO, 40p) is an annex issued separately by the TUC giving guidance to its affiliated unions on the conduct of industrial relations. It covers three areas: negotiating procedures for avoiding disputes; the conduct of industrial disputes where they arise; and, trade union organisations and the closed shop. These, Mr Callaghan said, laid down comprehensive standards of trade union responsibility and commended the value of conciliation and arbitration.

Main points in the joint statement

☐ The British people must achieve living standards in line with those in the rest of Europe, and prices can best be brought down by increasing productivity and output and re-equipping manufacturing industry.

☐ Within three years, the annual rate of inflation must be brought down to 5 per cent or less. The concept of a 'going rate', with successive groups escalating the rate by building on the basis of earlier settlements, is an obstacle to reducing inflation.

☐ Advantage may be secured from the synchronisation of pay bargaining in certain areas, but the difficulties of introducing this quickly are recognised.

☐ Each year before Easter there should be a national assessment, by government and both sides of industry, of Britain's economic prospects.

☐ Means will be sought by which workers in the public services could establish arrangements for negotiating pay and conditions which would make it unnecessary for them to resort to industrial action. Identification of the groups that might be covered by such agreements would be sought as a matter of urgency.

☐ Urgent consultations will be held into the problems of relativities and comparability in pay matters directly related to the problems of low pay and differentials.

Interim price increases for Esso and BP

Agreement for the Esso Petroleum Company and BP to make interim increases while the Price Commission investigations into the two companies proceed was announced on 15 February.

Esso had notified the commission of a weighted average increase for all its products of 1.166p per litre. The commission has agreed that, while its three-month investigation proceeds, the company may implement a weighted average increase of 0.74p a litre.

The increase originally notified would have permitted a wholesale petrol price increase of 6p per gallon to be implemented in two stages. The effect of the restriction will be to permit a wholesale petrol price increase of 3½p per gallon.

BP had notified the commission of a weighted average increase of 0.64p per litre. The commission has agreed to allow the whole of this increase. The effect will also be to permit an increase of approximately 3½p per gallon in the wholesale price of petrol.

Aware of rise

The commission said on 15 February that it was aware of the rise in the cost of imported raw materials resulting largely from the decision by the Opec producers to increase the price of crude oil at the beginning of the year. The interim increases are designed to cover these higher imported raw-material costs and follow the obligation laid on the commission in this respect by the Price Commission (Amendment) Act 1979, details of which are given on page 359.

Scottish prices in relation to UK prices to be studied

Prices secretary Roy Hattersley proposes to include a study covering prices in Scotland among the next examinations he will be asking the Price Commission to carry out.

In answer to a parliamentary question on 16 February, Mr Hattersley said he was considering the terms of reference of this inquiry and its relationship to prices in other parts of the UK. He said he would need to see the commission's findings before committing himself to acting on any recommendations it might make.

Speaking in Glasgow on the same day, Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said that many people in Scotland and in other regions of the United Kingdom considered that prices in their localities were unjustifiably higher than elsewhere.

Mr Maclennan told students and academic staff of the Strathclyde Business School that the secretary of state's announcement that the Price Commission was to be asked to study prices in Scotland, in relation to other parts of the country, was an acknowledgement of those anxieties.

Mr Maclennan said that for a long time, there had been discussion about the nature and causes of differences in prices between one region of the country and another, and the differences that could be found within each region. The debate had been particularly vigorous in Scotland where the concentration had been on variations in prices between regions. Much of the evidence, however, suggested that the variations within regions were of substantial if not greater significance.

Prices of individual items might be markedly different from area to area; transport and distribution costs obviously varied. But the type of shop, the margin of the retailer and his efficiency, and the pressure of local competition, were frequently even more important.

Mr Maclennan went on to say that the retail price index (RPI) was accepted as the best – and unbiased – indicator of the national rate of inflation. It did not measure the absolute cost of living as such. The RPI measured changes in prices to consumers of goods and services. In serving that purpose approximately 150 000 price checks were made every month. The index was necessarily an aggregate but the selection was chosen so that the result must always meet the required degree of accuracy, ie with a standard error of not more than 0.5 per cent.

None of the studies which in the past had looked at regional prices had deployed the resources devoted to the RPI, although a number of attempts had been made to measure the inter-regional variations in prices. Commonly, these surveys also indicated the variations in prices within individual regions. Some of these surveys, however, only looked at specific items, such as food and ignored areas equally important – for example, the cost of housing. Often they failed to cope with changes in prices that occurred as supply and demand altered. There was another dimension to regional price comparisons which further complicated what might at first seem a simple comparison Mr Maclennan continued. This was the extent to which, in surveying items for comparison in each part of the country, it was possible to price exactly the same item in each town.

'We all want to find ways of keeping costs down,' Mr Maclennan concluded. 'To do so, my department encourages a greater understanding of variations in prices. We welcome a properly conducted inquiry into the cause of these variations and hope that the work being undertaken on prices in Scotland by the Scottish Consumer Council will provide further data into this complex subject.

'It is against this background that the government is considering what further information would be useful to analyse prices – especially regional variations. We want to raise the level of discussion and debate on prices and put us all in a better position to continue the fight against inflation.'

Sealink passengers top 18m in 1978

Sealink services carried a record 18 291 000 passengers in 1978, an increase of 927 000 over 1977. In addition, 2 130 000 cars were carried – the first time the number of cars has exceeded 2 million.

Services to the continent, which are operated by Sealink and its French, Belgian and Dutch partners, carried 8 111 000 passengers and 1 017 000 cars, both substantial increases on 1977. Irish services carried 2 414 000 passengers (a 17 per cent increase) and 361 000 cars (a 21 per cent increase), continuing the rapid growth experienced in the previous year. The two Channel Islands services conveyed almost 800 000 passengers (an increase of 19 per cent) and 93 000 cars (27 per cent) and the Isle of Wight services 5 million passengers and 581 000 cars.

Sealink services also carried 523 000 lorries, breaking the half-million mark for the first time. As well, 220 000 ex-works cars, 135 000 containers and 950 000 tons of freight, mostly in train ferry wagons, were shipped.

Post Office auditors reappointed

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has reappointed Messrs Coopers and Lybrand and Messrs Touche Ross and Co as joint auditors of the Post Office. The appointment covers the audit of the account for the financial year 1978-79.

Public access to oil spill plans

Copies of plans prepared by oil companies to deal with oil spillages offshore are to be made available on request.

Answering a parliamentary question on 9 February, Dr Dickson Mabon, Minister for Energy, said that offshore operators had accepted his request that these plans should be made available, subject to the omission of their personnel's private addresses and telephone numbers for use in any oil spill emergency. Members of the public and organisations concerned wishing to see a particular plan should contact the Department of Energy's petroleum engineering division and, by prior notice, the plan could be made available for inspection in the division's Aberdeen, Glasgow or London offices. The offices are at Thames House South, Millbank, London, SW1, tel. 01-211 3000; Offshore Supplies Office, Alhambra House, 45 Waterloo Place, Glasgow, tel. 041-221 8777; and Offshore Supplies Office, Inverlair House, West North Street, Aberdeen, tel. 0224 21757.

Seacop conference

A national one-day conference on the arrangements for combating oil pollution around UK coasts will be held by the Department of Trade on 19 March.

Seacop – Seminar on emergency arrangements for combating oil pollution – will provide an opportunity to review the improved arrangements being introduced for dealing with oil spills. It will also constitute a contribution by the UK to world maritime day on 17 March, an annual event sponsored by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (Imco). The theme this year is 'safer shipping and cleaner oceans'.

The seminar will be introduced by John Smith, Secretary of State for Trade, and speakers will include Rear-Admiral Michael Stacey, director of the Department of Trade's new marine pollution control unit; C. P. Srivastava, secretary-general of Imco; and scientists and representatives from local authorities and the oil industry.

Safety radio channel for fishermen

A special radio channel is to be made available for the use of fishermen in waters up to 300 miles from the British coast.

Announcing this in parliament on 12 February, Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping said he had agreed to the fishing industry safety group's recommendation that there should be a special radio communication channel for the exclusive use of fishing vessels. It was proposed that it

Price Commission (Amendment) Act

The Price Commission (Amendment) Act received the royal assent on 12 February and its provisions came into operation immediately.

The act is intended to increase the freedom of action of the Price Commission by amending section 9 and related provisions of the 1977 Price Commission Act. The effect of the amendments is to remove the 'safeguard' provisions of the 1977 act, which allowed prices to be increased to provide certain profit levels notwithstanding price restrictions which would otherwise be imposed under the 1977 act in consequence of investigations by the Price Commission.

Under section 4 of the 1977 act, the Price Commission may investigate price increases which have to be notified to it in advance. Broadly, under present arrangements, only the larger manufacturing and service firms are required to notify price increases. Under section 5, the commission may investigate all other prices or the margins of distributors (apart from certain exceptions specified by statutory instrument). During an investigation of a price or a price increase, the act requires the price to be held at the level current before the investigation, unless the commission allows an interim increase. Distributors' margins are not subjected to restriction during an investigation. Following an investigation (which must be completed within three months), the commission may recommend restriction of the price or margin for a further period, but in no case for more than 12 months starting with the date on which the increase was notified, in the case of a pre-notified increase, or the start of the investigation, in the case of a non-pre-notifiable price or a margin. The secretary of state may implement the recommendations (or a less severe restriction) by order. In exercising their functions, both the commission and the secretary of state must have regard to the provisions of section 2 of the act. Broadly, these require prices to be restrained only to the extent consistent with the making of adequate profits by efficient suppliers.

Under the 1977 act as it stood before amendment, all price or margin restrictions applicable during or following investigation could be overriden by the 'safeguard' provisions. Section 9 of the act required the secretary of state to make regulations specifying levels of profit which firms were not to be prevented from earning in consequence of any such restrictions. During investigations the commission was obliged to authorise price increases to the extent necessary to achieve these profit levels. Following investigations, firms affected by restrictions were entitled to increase prices to the necessary levels at their own initiative. The new act removes these overriding safeguard provisions. The secretary of state is no longer required to make regulations for the purposes in question, and the existing regulations – the Prices and Changes (Safeguard for Basic Profits) Regulations 1977, SI 1977, 1282 – have ceased to have effect in so far as they relate to safeguards during and after investigations.

As a transitional exemption from the provisions of the amendment act, the relevant provisions of the 1977 act, and the regulations made under these provisions, will continue to apply during the investigation of any price increases notified to the commission before 17 January 1979, the day after the government's proposal to remove the safeguard provision was announced.

Although the Price Commission's duty to allow interim price increases during investigations in consequence of the safeguard regulations has been removed (apart from the transitional exemption mentioned above), the commission may still permit interim increases if it thinks that prices ought not to be completely restricted. In considering whether to permit an increase, the commission is required to have regard to the provisions of section 2 of the 1977 act.

The amendment act does not abolish the requirement for the secretary of state to make safeguard regulations in respect of examinations under section 10 of the 1977 act. Such examinations normally cover whole sectors of industry and may lead to restrictions on prices or margins. Safeguards are required to specify the levels of profit which firms are not to be prevented from earning by such restrictions. The existing regulations will remain in force for this purpose for the time being, but the government intends to make new regulations, explicitly limited to this function, as soon as possible. The Department of Prices and Consumer Protection is consulting representatives of industry, employees, and consumers about the revision of the regulations.

The new act differs in two respects from the bill originally introduced (see *Trade and Industry*, 2 February 1979).

As a result of an amendment made in the house of lords, and accepted by the house of commons, the Price Commission, in deciding whether to permit an interim price increase during an investigation, must now take special account of any increase in the price of imported raw materials. If it considers that, as a result of such an increase, the price under investigation ought not to be fully restricted it is under a duty to allow an appropriate interim increase.

As a result of an amendment introduced in the house of commons, all the abovementioned provisions of the new act will expire after 12 months unless they have been extended by an order in council approved in draft by both houses of parliament. The provisions may not be extended for more than 12 months at a time. If at any time they are allowed to expire, the original provisions of the 1977 act will come back into force immediately.

It is not possible to predict the extent to which the new act will lead to a greater restriction of prices. This will largely depend on the extent to which the Price Commission considers price increases justified in the absence of safeguards, which will depend on the individual circumstances of each case. For the same reason, it is not possible to predict the effects of the act on profits though, as stated above, prices may only be restricted to the extent compatible with the making of adequate profits by efficient suppliers.

would operate overnight between 1700 hours and 0900 hours on 2381 kHz.

The channel was not intended to replace distress calls on the frequency of 2182 kHz, but would enable vessels to make quick contact with the shore in the event of difficulties developing.

It should also encourage more frequent contact thus helping to establish the whereabouts of vessels while fishing, Mr Clinton Davis said.

Talks between Department of Trade officials, the Scottish Fishing Federation and the Post Office on the detailed arrangements for the scheme began on 15 February. It is hoped that the scheme will begin in April, initially for a period of two years. The channel will be operated from Post Office coast radio stations at Wick, Stonehaven, Oban, Cullercoats, Humber and Land's End.

DoI advance factories

Hemsworth

Work has started on an advance factory of 450 m² for the Department of Industry at Langthwaite Grange Industrial Estate, Hemsworth, South Kirkby. The terrace unit type factory is divisible into two individual units of 225 m² each. The premises should be ready for occupation in September.

Inquiries about purchase or lease: Regional Director, Department of Industry, Yorkshire and Humberside Region, Priestley House, Park Row, Leeds, tel. 0532 443171

Tavistock

An advance factory of 360 m² is being built for the Development Commission at Plymouth Road, Tavistock, Devon.

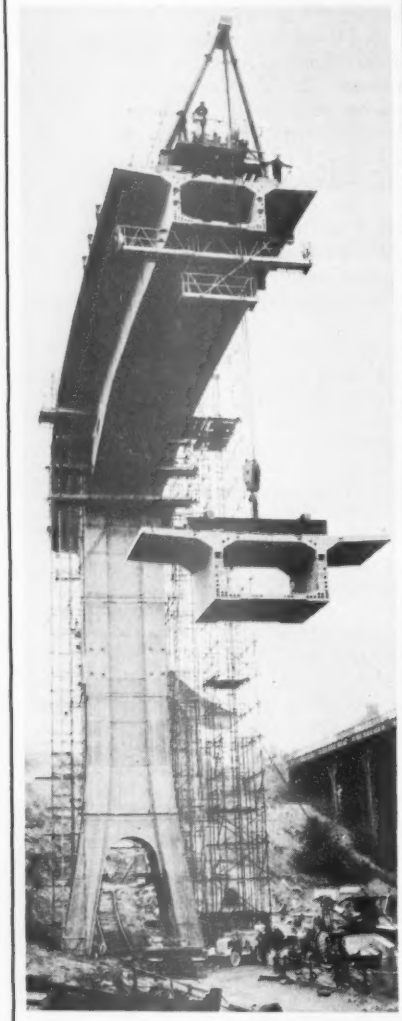
The terrace unit type factory is divisible into two individual units of 180 m² each. Work has just started and the premises should be ready for occupation in September.

Inquiries

Inquiries regarding purchase or lease: Department of Industry, Phoenix House, Notte Street, Plymouth PL1 2HF, tel. 0752 218914, or Regional Director, Department of Industry, The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2PB, tel 0272 291071.

Metro bridge employs new techniques

A segment of the Byker viaduct for the new Newcastle metro is raised for positioning. Part cantilever, part continuous deck and part hybrid of two, the viaduct is the first bridge to be built in the United Kingdom using 'glued' segments and cantilever construction. Segments are counter cast on site, each one being poured between its predecessor and a fixed stop end. This method produces the matching faces necessary for a glued joint. The counter cast segment is set up so as to achieve the required vertical and horizontal alignments. The viaduct is being built by John Mowlem and Company.



Sir Leslie Smith joins NEB

Industry secretary Eric Varley has appointed Sir Leslie Smith to be a part-time member of the National Enterprise Board. Sir Leslie is chairman of British Oxygen Co International Ltd. The appointment will be for three years. Part-time members of the NEB are paid £1,100 per annum.

Good practices for the credit industry

A list of recommendations on good practices for the credit industry has been published by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC). It explains how sex discrimination can be avoided in the provision of credit and follows a joint review of Debenham's credit procedures by the EOC and the Debenhams Group.

Two factors likely to contribute to equality of treatment between the sexes, the commission finds, are a systematic training programme for staff at all levels; and the use of standardised and up-to-date written instructions to all staff responsible for credit-sanctioning, which should be free from all terminology commonly understood to apply to one sex only.

Credit systems need to be reviewed from the standpoint of both direct and indirect sex discrimination: first, to ensure that precisely the same criteria for assessing credit-worthiness and imposing guarantor or other requirements are applied to women as to men; second, to ensure that qualifications treated as essential for all applicants for credit do not bear unnecessarily hard on a disproportionate number of women compared with men.

Copies of the commission's booklet 'Credit where credit's due' are available from Miss Lesley Ruffell, Equal Opportunities Commission, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN.

Acas booklet on job evaluation

The first in a series of advisory booklets on industrial relations and personnel management topics has been published by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

'Job evaluation' is a revision of the guide to job evaluation, first published by Acas in 1975. It explains the systematic assessment of the relative worth of different jobs and outlines its advantages and limitations. It also sets out the main stages in the process of installing job evaluation, and describes some common methods of job evaluation.

The booklet explains how employees and management can work together through a job evaluation committee, normally consisting of equal numbers of management and employee representatives, and acting as a team rather than a bargaining body. It points to the use of job evaluation in eliminating unjustified inequalities of pay between men and women.

Subsequent titles in the series will probably include 'Payment systems', 'Personnel records' and 'Recruitment and selection'. Each booklet in the series will aim at providing employers, managers, union officials and employees with an introduction to a particular topic and will contain concise guidance on necessary action. The booklets will highlight areas where joint action by management and employee representatives may be fruitful.

Change in hearing-aid code

Hearing aid dispensers are to be banned from making uninvited home visits to potential customers.

Under the Hearing Aid Council's existing code of practice, dispensers cannot interview any potential client at home about providing a hearing aid 'unless such client has already been in communication with the dispenser or his employer and, having been given reasonable opportunity, has not indicated objection to such visit'. This phrase is to be deleted from the code from 1 January 1981.

The council was set up under the Hearing Aid Council Act 1968 to secure adequate standards of competence and conduct among persons engaged in dispensing private hearing aids.

Hearing aid council appointments

The Department of Prices and Consumer Protection announced on 15 February that the secretary of state had re-appointed Mr M. C. Bruce and J. A. Durning as trade members of the Hearing Aid Council for a period of three years.

Yorkshire and Humberside to study manpower question

Yorkshire and Humberside Economic Planning Council has set up two working groups in response to growing concern about unemployment in the region. One group will examine manpower measures which might be required to create new jobs. The other will look into regional industries' future manpower requirements.

Establishment of the groups was announced by the council on 5 February when it published its 1978 annual report. The report says that while the outlook remains uncertain, the council feels from its review of the region's industries that in terms of output the region will continue to hold its own.

SDA to spend further £2m at Methil

The Scottish Development Agency has pledged a further £2 million to prepare the Fife port of Methil for marine-related industrial development.

At present, the agency is spending £1 million reclaiming a disused dock and railway yard and the fresh injection of money will complete a 31 acre industrial site bordering a compact harbour.

Work will start in May on a £160,000 advance factory and the agency is holding pre-

liminary discussions on developing part of the new dockside.

Methil's transformation started last April when bulldozers removed embankments and derelict buildings and began to fill in part of the no. 3 dock closed a year earlier by the Forth Ports Authority. Thirteen acres have been reclaimed, new access roads constructed and sea walls are now being repaired and strengthened.

The next phase will provide a further 18 acres for industry and will involve filling more of the dock, building new quay walls, repairing dock walls and removing faulty lock gates to create a tidal harbour.

The work will take 18 months, but will be sufficiently advanced by the end of this year to allow dockside development. The agency's 10 000 sq ft advance factory will be the first on a small estate, which will complement any large-scale building, and should be ready by late autumn.

Merger proposals cleared

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before him, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Sime Darby Holdings Ltd/The Guthrie Corporation Ltd

Northern Engineering Industries Ltd/Ferranti-Packard Ltd

Pilkington Brothers Ltd/Sola Holdings Ltd

The Boots Co Ltd/The US agrochemicals division of Hercules Inc

Newman Industries Ltd/full acquisition of Avdel International NV

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Eighth floor, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

GEC's proposed acquisition of Averys referred to MMC

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided to refer the proposed acquisition by the General Electric Co Ltd of Averys Ltd to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation and report under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973. The commission is to make its report within six months.

The decision does not prejudge the question whether or not the merger would be against the public interest; it is for the commission to report on this after investigation.

Government sales

7 March 1979 – Miscellaneous

Location
The Astoria, Roundhay Road, Leeds 8

Auctioneers
Bartle and Son (Dept L), 1a Bridge Street, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire (0937 835303)

Stores lying in north-east England comprising furniture, clothing and textiles, machine and hand tools, motor spares, tyres, vehicles, wireless equipment, and many other miscellaneous items.

Catalogue price 40p, postage 15p.

14 March 1979 – Furniture

Location
Regional Depot RAOC, Moreton on Lugg, Hereford

Auctioneers
Russell Baldwin and Bright (Dept L), 20 King Street, Hereford (0432 55441)

The sale consists of mainly small or single item lots of furniture.

Catalogue price 20p, postage 10p.

Catalogues, which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale.

Reach the export executive

Four out of five Trade and Industry readers are engaged in exporting. And nine out of ten readers are executives. Reach the export executive with your advertisement. Phone Dudley Masters or Terry Day on 01-242 9478

WEMBLEY AUCTION SALES 1979

6 MARCH

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Stores India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Miscellaneous office equipment and furniture etc. (Potential buyers are advised to refer to the official catalogue available from the auctioneers, price 20p)
Auctioneers:	Messrs Hollingsworth Westcombe House 56/58 Whitcomb Street Leicester Square London WC2H 7DR Tel. 01-893 1875

Technology news

NEL embarks on robot research programme

Development of industrial robots is to be the subject of an 18-month research programme by the Department of Industry's National Engineering Laboratory (NEL) in East Kilbride. This is one of a range of activities being carried out in the field by the department (*Trade and Industry*, 12 January, page 62).

The programme will extend the laboratory's present research into the use of robots in arc welding to the general development of techniques, standards and application of robot devices. It is being financed by the department's mechanical engineering and machine tools requirements board and arises out of recommendations by the board's committee for automated small-batch production.

The main activities will be in interface and performance standards with basic facilities for evaluation and calibration. Research will also be aimed at enhancing the abilities of robots. These are seen as common to the likely applications of industrial robots or in extending their use into small-batch applications. The specific areas of research are:

☐ Robot characteristics and performance standards are to be evaluated with the eventual aim of providing standards and calibration support for industry in characteristics such as static and dynamic positioning, loading deflections and manoeuvrability.

☐ Interface standards are to be developed, important in those areas where industrial robots interface with humans and have mechanical, electrical or optical interfaces with the outside world. High-level language standards will also be considered.

☐ Facilities are being developed to simulate robot movements by means of computer models. This will assist in both the design and selection of robot systems for industrial applications.

☐ A comparison is being made of the present and potential UK market which would be available to robots with improved features. Particular attention is being paid to checking Japanese and German predictions that, with the provision of tactile sensors and facilities for inspecting and orienting parts, there will be a large increase in potential applications.

☐ A project on equipping robots with sensors will review the research work done on sensors for complex applications – recognising and selecting parts for a bin; recognising and rejecting a faulty part; adjusting for variations in workpiece dimensions as in welding and making use of force or torque measurements to avoid damage or incorrect assembly. Particular attention will be paid to work which is relevant to the UK interest in the automation of batch production. Certain features such as visual inspection and recognition will be implemented and demonstrated, and the work currently being done on weld joint recognition will be extended to more general surface profile sensing.

The automation of small-batch production committee was set up by the requirements board to study the UK and international scene in small-batch production and to recommend a programme of research and development. Under the chairmanship of Bill Leslie of NEL, and with members drawn from industry and universities, the committee's recommendations are aimed at increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of the UK manufacturing industry through higher levels of automation in small-batch production.

DoI to survey mechanical handling industry

Product development needs of the UK mechanical handling industry are to be surveyed by the Department of Industry. The survey has been commissioned by the department's mechanical engineering and machine tools requirements board on behalf of the National Economic Development Council's mechanical handling sector working party. It will play a major part in the sector working party's participation in the Industrial Strategy, and will establish the needs of industrial firms for product R&D over the next decade.

The survey will include discussions with both the users and manufacturers of mechanical handling equipment, and the organisations engaged in research and development. The areas being covered are:

☐ Conveyors and aerial ropeways, including storage equipment and automated warehouses
☐ Cranes and transporters
☐ Lifts and escalators
☐ Lifting and winding devices
☐ Powered industrial trucks and industrial trailers.

The range of equipment to be surveyed will also be of interest to the industrial trucks and the construction equipment and mobile cranes sector working parties.

Future requirements

The survey will examine future operational requirements including foreseeable developments in the way the customer uses his machinery; materials; control technology including the use of microprocessors; and reliability and maintenance. Market aspects will also be covered, including both what the customer will find it worthwhile to pay for, and what benefits the industry will be likely to obtain; system integration; customer advisory services; and effects on the industry if future requirements are not met.

Industrial firms and other organisations with an interest in the survey should contact Bryan Davies, Department of Industry, Room 108, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN, tel. 01-211 6355.

Microprocessor control speeds changes in the design of carpets

Microprocessors are at the heart of a special control system designed and built by the Production Engineering Research Association (Pera) and fitted to a highly complex carpet warp printing machine installed in the works of Kingsmead Carpets Ltd. The purpose of the machine is to print a variety of patterns and colours on to the carpet yarn. With the new control system it has been possible to achieve a massive reduction in down time when changing from one carpet design to another.

Whereas with a previous mechanical system it took nine hours to change designs, the Pera microprocessor-based control system reduces this down time to a matter of a few minutes at most. Because of the speed with which designs can now be changed on the machines, and the inherent reliability it now possesses, it has also been possible to reduce stock levels. Any order, whether for a small or large quantity, is run off after selecting from the tape store the appropriate paper tape governing the design.

The basic printing machine had been in existence for several years but suffered from a long history of breakdowns resulting in unacceptably high production costs. While the overall design concept seemed right, the printing mechanism was not adequate to meet the operating requirements. In addition, the control system was inflexible, and was not suitable for creating one-off 'special' carpets or for short runs. It took nine hours to change the 288 programming rods, which in turn took nine weeks to prepare.

Initial discussions between Guthrie Industries, which owns Kingsmead Carpets, and Pera indicated the need for a control system which would accept design information and communicate this rapidly and reliably to the printing and patterning mechanism. Pera's automation and control team developed and built a powerful, flexible and reliable microprocessor-based control system which would allow design patterns to be changed rapidly, simply by changing the control tape, similar in concept to the control of an nc machine tool. Overall success was achieved by close co-operation between Pera's systems engineers and Hobson Wenfre Ltd of Liverpool, responsible for the development of a new printing mechanism.

The flexibility and power of the micro-

processor-based control system is demonstrated by the fact that in the previous three years of 'stop-go' operation, Kingsmead only managed to produce eight carpet designs on the machine, but within two months of the new control system being fitted, the machine's production capability had been increased to a total of 33 different carpet designs, all stored on punched paper tape.

Insac to market Prestel in the United States

An agreement which allows Insac to market the Post Office's Prestel viewdata system in the United States was signed on 16 February. The licence allows Insac to exploit Prestel directly or via United States sub-licences and gives it exclusive rights for up to three years. In return, the Post Office receives a series of lump sum payments and royalties on sales.

Insac will offer a viewdata service in the United States by the end of 1979 and sees three distinct markets there – domestic, closed-user groups and corporate users. It expects to tackle the domestic market in conjunction with one or more major United States corporations. Its expanding sales team is already selling directly to closed-user groups and corporations and has received letters of intent from several key users.

The UK computer industry is expected to benefit from this joint initiative by Insac and the Post Office in several ways. A viewdata system requires systems software and is potentially a distribution channel for application products and for terminals and processors. In addition to sub-contracting viewdata product development to its member companies, Insac expects to work with other UK companies which offer viewdata products to capitalise on the UK's lead and to help maximise the export of UK products and experience in this expanding field.

Formed in 1977, Insac is backed by a £20 million commitment from the National Enterprise Board. Its objective is to increase the export of UK-produced software/systems products. It does this both by developing new lines of international business, such as viewdata, on a scale which its member companies (CAP, Logica, Systime, SPL and SDL) could not achieve in their own right, and by providing venture capital to enable its members to establish themselves in key international markets, principally the United States.

BSI issues reference standard on precision of test methods

The first part of a new British standard which will be of fundamental importance in improving standardisation practice has been published by the British Standards Institution. BS 5497 'Precision of test methods' is a new basic reference standard to be used as an aid to the quality control of bulk commodities and is issued complete with a computer program for ease of application.

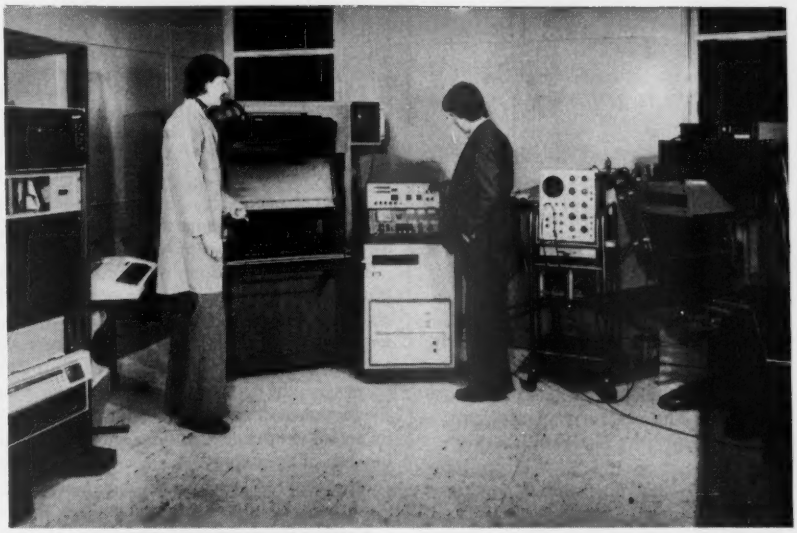
BS 5497 part 1, 'Determination of repeatability and reproducibility for a standard test method' (available from BSI Sales Department, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND, £8.80), describes the organisation and analysis of inter-laboratory experiments for the numerical determination of two extreme measures of variability, repeatability and reproducibility. Repeatability refers to tests performed at short intervals in one laboratory by one operator using the same equipment, while reproducibility refers to tests performed in different laboratories, which implies different operators, different equipment and different times.

BSI has published over 1000 standard test methods, many of which include comprehensive test requirements, particularly where bulk commodities, agricultural products, chemical/fuels or raw materials are concerned. However, the establishment of standard methods of test alone does not guarantee that test results subsequently obtained can be accepted without reservation. Many different factors, apart from sampling error, may contribute to variability, such as the operator, the instruments and the equipment used, the calibration of the equipment and the environment.

Accordingly, BS 5497 part 1 has been published in an attempt to rationalise alternative practices published by various industrial sectors, since the accumulation of test data is often less crucial than the requirements to establish the integrity of the statistical analysis and agree upon the significance of any variability in the test results obtained. Consequently a precise step-by-step statistical procedure has been included in the standard with a flow diagram and a computer program, in Fortran, to assist implementation.

This new British standard will be used in future instead of product committees establishing precision criteria for their own sectors. Also, standards which establish methods of test will increasingly utilise BS 5497 to establish the precision of their particular standard test method.

Ferranti advises on laser inspection techniques



This laser inspection industrial advisory unit has been established by the Ferranti Measurement and Inspection Group at its factory in Dalkeith to answer technical queries on the types of tasks for which laser inspection techniques are suited. In addition, similar units have been set up in West Germany and Japan, where Ferranti laser scanning analysers can be shown in operation, and trials on materials be performed to assess the potential of laser inspection for solving particular inspection problems. In the near future, it is intended to form a further laser inspection industrial advisory unit in France. The primary applications for which Ferranti laser scanning analysers have been, or are being, used are to evaluate surface quality, gloss, thickness of translucent materials, and the geometric shape of flat objects.

Textile seminar seeks better use of energy

A one-day seminar on energy saving in the dyeing and finishing of textiles will be held on 28 March at the Shirley Institute, Didsbury, Manchester. It is one of a series of seminars being organised as part of the Department of Industry's campaign to encourage the better use of energy in the manufacturing industry.

The cost of all forms of energy is expected to go on increasing and, in the last two years, a great deal more information has become available on UK short- to medium-term energy and water resources. The findings of the Department of Industry's industrial energy thrift scheme have encouraged the more efficient use of energy by showing what can be achieved in practice.

These and other related topics will be discussed by speakers from the UK and EEC, who will draw particular attention to the progress made in energy and water conservation in the dyeing and finishing industries and highlight opportunities that exist for savings in these sectors.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from Mr J. K. Jackson, Shirley Institute, Didsbury, Manchester M20 8RX, tel. 061-445 8141.

New products

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Optical pyrometer provides digital read-out

A disappearing-filament optical pyrometer, developed by Furnace Instruments Ltd, indicates temperature on a digital display to a high degree of accuracy and is small and light enough for one-hand operation. Known as the Digi, the instrument provides non-contact measurements of temperatures from 800°C to 1750°C in two overlapping switched ranges, with a repeatability that can be as high as ±1°C under laboratory conditions and ±2°C under plant conditions.

It weighs 1.13 kg and all its working parts, except the eyepiece and controls, are contained within a cylinder of a nylon-based material, 205 mm long and 85 mm in diameter, which is dust-tight and virtually unbreakable. Everything can be withdrawn from the cylinder as a single unit, simplifying inspection of the optical and electrical systems.

The instrument's lamp has a very fine ribbon filament, horizontal and straight. This responds rapidly to current changes and there is none of the overshooting that can occur with filaments of heavier gauge. The system presents an erect rather than an inverted image of the filament, magnified so that moving targets can be followed and small targets located easily and quickly. Focusing covers object distances from infinity down to 100 mm. Lamp current is controlled by one section of a three-gang, three-turn precision potentiometer, and the voltage derived is processed to give automatically a correct temperature read-out. The circuit includes a trimming potentiometer to adjust for any long-term calibration drift.

A secondary function of the four-digit display, which is sited below the eyepiece and is recessed to improve its readability at high levels of ambient lighting, is to indicate the state of the battery. When a pushbutton is depressed, the display not only shows whether the battery is charging or discharging but also its actual voltage, state of charge and remaining life. The display also provides a useful check on battery voltage during re-charging, particularly at high charging rates.

Further information: circle 325

Digi is small and light enough for one-hand operation.

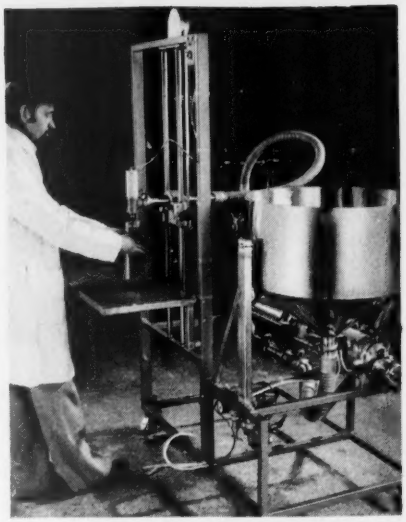
Filling machine handles range of viscosities

The latest modular constructed, mobile semi-automatic filling machine for handling foaming and non-foaming liquid food, paint and chemical products of various viscosities is available from Neumo Ltd.

The air-operated machine is capable of top and bottom filling containers from 250 ml to 5-litre and above with instant change of volume of product dispensed to a guaranteed accuracy of ±0.25 per cent by volume. Typical rates of filling are up to 35 to 40-250 ml and 15-5 litre containers a minute initiated through to completion of fill by a single air signal from a foot pedal control. All contact parts are stainless steel of ptfe and can be stripped quickly by hand when required.

The machines can accept, initially or subsequently, a range of standard component parts to meet the simplest to the most sophisticated customer specification. It is equipped with counterbalanced, variable height top fill or automatic rise-and-fall bottom filling heads which are interchangeable and simply clamp into position. Optional equipment includes an automatic counter to give multiple pump cycles, variable height filling platform, roller conveyor with lid presser and container coder and a 150-litre capacity product tank with float level control.

Further information: circle 326



Foaming and non-foaming liquids can be handled.

Controller reduces power use of cooling towers

An automatic temperature controller has been developed by Hamon-Sobelco Ltd to minimise the electrical power consumption of evaporative water-cooling towers. The device is programmed to respond to changes in water flow rate, thermal load and ambient temperature by shutting down or stepping up the speed of the cooling-tower fans to maintain the temperature of the re-cooled water below a preselected level.

At night and during the winter, when natural cooling is greatest, power requirements may drop to 15 per cent of the summer level. It is often possible to shut down one or more fans altogether, lowering noise levels. To minimise machinery wear, the controller operates each unit sequentially. In the event of a fan malfunctioning, the device automatically utilises any spare cooling capacity.

The controller comprises interchangeable solid-state printed circuits on pull-out cards, housed in a compact wall-mounting or free-standing cabinet. There are two standard versions to control two or four fans respectively. Specially designed units can also be supplied to meet other requirements.

Further information: circle 327

Parliament

Monday, 12 February

Benzidine azo dyes

Margaret Bain (East Dunbartonshire) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would maintain records of the import of benzidine azo dyes, in view of international concern about the high incidence of bladder cancer amongst workers manufacturing these dyes. She also asked if he would list the countries of origin of imports of benzidine azo dyes and the names of any British companies financing the manufacture of the dyes abroad, following the cessation of their manufacture in Great Britain due to the exceptionally high incidence of bladder cancer amongst workers manufacturing the dyes.

Mr Meacher replied that he was advised by the Health and Safety Executive of the Department of Employment, which was responsible for matters of industrial safety and health, that the concentration of free benzidine in benzidine azo dyes was too low to constitute a hazard to health in normal conditions of use. It therefore did not consider it necessary for information to be collected about imports of these dyes. As benzidine azo dyes were not separately identified in the overseas trade statistics, he was unable to list the countries of origin of imports of them. He had no information on whether any British companies might be financing their manufacture abroad.

Trade with Malta

Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what were the amounts in volume and price, of imports of textile goods from Malta to the United Kingdom for each of the last five years and similar figures for exports of textile goods from the United Kingdom to Malta for the same period, expressing these figures as a percentage of the whole of the United Kingdom's trade with Malta.

Mr Meacher gave the following available information on the current basis of the overseas trade statistics:

IMPORTS OF TEXTILE GOODS FROM MALTA

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	Jan-Nov 1978
Value (£ million cif)	3.3	5.4	7.7	7.3	11.7	11.3
Volume ('000 tonnes)	1.3	1.9	2.1	1.4	2.5	2.4

EXPORTS OF TEXTILE GOODS TO MALTA

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	Jan-Nov 1978
Value (£ million fob)	5.4	5.8	6.1	7.7	n.a.	7.1
Volume ('000 tonnes)	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.4	n.a.	2.1

TRADE IN TEXTILE GOODS EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF UK TRADE WITH MALTA

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	Jan-Nov 1978
Imports	21.2	31.3	28.0	21.3	29.9	30.7
Exports	15.6	14.0	11.7	11.8	n.a.	11.0

Notes: These figures cover textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles (including textile clothing) and related products, and synthetic and regenerated (artificial) fibres; total trade by weight with individual countries is not available; n.a. not available.

Footwear retail commitment

Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked the Secretary of State for Trade how many footwear retailing firms had signed the retail commitment and to what effect.

Mr Meacher replied that the retail commitment was an initiative of the Footwear Distributors' Federation and the department understood that 97 retailers had made this public commitment. It was launched in May 1978 in consultation with the footwear industry working party on which distributors as well as manufacturers were represented. The working party would be monitoring its effects.

Butter prices

Roderick MacFarquhar (Belper) asked what had been the average prices of a half pound of English, Danish and New Zealand butter in November and December 1978 and in January 1979.

Mr Maclennan answered that the average prices for a half pound of home produced, Danish and New Zealand butter for November and December 1978 were as follows:

	Home produced p	Danish p	New Zealand p
November 1978	32.7	34.9	31.3
December 1978	32.5	34.5	31.3

Source: Department of Employment Gazette; separate figures are not available for English butter and figures for January 1979 are not yet available.

Premium selling

John Hunt (Bromley, Ravensbourne) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether his department had yet been given any indication as to when a draft directive could be expected from the European commission following the community-wide study on sales premiums and gifts which was presented to the environmental and consumer protection service of the commission in 1977.

Mr Fraser replied that he was not aware that the European commission had any present plans for a draft directive in the field of premium selling. The Consumers' Association was currently making a study of sales promotion methods and in the light of their findings, the government would consider whether and to what extent any control of premium offers might be necessary.

Small firms inquiries

Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked the Secretary for Industry how many firms used the signposting and counselling services of the small firms service in 1978.

Mr Huckfield said that in 1978, 86 977 inquiries were addressed to the small firms centres.

Tuesday, 13 February

Textile and clothing industry

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would make a statement on the general guidelines for a textile and clothing sectoral policy recently produced by the EEC commission.

Mr Huckfield referred the questioner to the explanatory memorandum on the EEC commission's 'Communication to the council on general guidelines for a textiles and clothing industry policy', reference R/2118/78, submitted by his department on 12 October 1978. The communication was complex and wide-ranging. It had been discussed by member states in the council machinery but had not so far been considered by the council itself. The commission had held a series of hearings with the different sectors of the community industry and the unions. Further discussions with member states were expected, after which it was envisaged that the commission would bring forward specific proposals to the council to deal with particular problems which had been identified. The department would seek to ensure that any measures adopted by the community were consistent with UK objectives.

Initiatives had already been taken by the commission in three areas which it saw in part as elements in a community policy for the textiles and clothing industry. The commission had put forward proposals for a regulation for community aid for industrial restructuring and conversion (R/2821/78) which were now under discussion with member states. An explanatory memorandum on these proposals was submitted by his department on 11 December 1978. Also preliminary ideas for a council regulation setting out community conditions for outward processing of textile and clothing products by Mediterranean countries with whom the community had preferential trade agreements were being discussed by the commission with member states. Ideas for a second community research and development programme for textiles and clothing were also being discussed by the commission with member states.

Textile voluntary restraint arrangements

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would make a statement on the voluntary restraint agreements recently negotiated with Portugal and other low cost Mediterranean textile suppliers; and whether he had to concede further increases in the import levels in addition to the annual growth factor to obtain these agreements.

Mr Meacher said that the EEC commission had recently negotiated voluntary restraint arrangements on their textile and clothing exports with Portugal (for three years), Spain (two years), Greece (one year, renewable) and Morocco (three years). At the UK's insistence, there were improved procedures for enforcing the agreed limits, including a 'warning bell' mechanism to set in hand action when limits were 75 per cent used. These arrangements, which covered about five-sixths of UK imports from low-cost Mediterranean suppliers, involved average increases of less than 1 per cent on the overall global ceilings for the eight group I products; in no case was the increase over 2 per cent.

Korean textiles

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what recent discussions he had had within the EEC about Korea's determination to treble the production of its textile industry and the repercussions this would have on the textile industries within the EEC.

Mr Meacher replied: none. He added that the capacity of the South Korean textile industry was not a matter for the EEC. South Korean exports of textile and clothing products to the European community up to the end of 1982 were governed by the EEC-South Korean bilateral agreement under the multifibre arrangement.

Comecon

George Robertson (Hamilton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what consultations he had had with the Trades Union Council about whether compensation trade deals with Comecon countries were in the best interests of its members.

Mr Meacher answered that while the secretary of state had not had formal discussions about compensation trade deals with eastern Europe or elsewhere with representative organisations, this was one subject he would shortly be discussing in a wider meeting with representatives from both sides of industry. There was, of course, no necessary link between any potential trade threat created by the build-up of east European industries and counter-trade.

Oil pollution measures

Hamish Watt (Banff) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would publish the results of the follow-up work to the report 'Accidents at sea causing oil pollution: review of contingency measures'.

Mr Clinton Davis said that he hoped to do so later this month.

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: John Smith
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Microprocessor technology
Renée Short (Wolverhampton North East) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he had yet approved a £10 million programme to publish the uses and potentialities of microprocessor technology; if not, when he intended to do so; and if he would detail how the money allocated was to be spent.

Mr Huckfield said that the £10 million programme was part of the £55 million microprocessor applications project announced by the Prime Minister on 6 December 1978. The programme was aimed at raising the level of general awareness and the number of training courses available. Details of the awareness programme would be announced shortly. His department, working closely with the national computing centre, had already doubled the number of short microcircuit training courses available for engineers.

China mission
George Rodgers (Chorley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would make a statement about the recent non-ferrous metals mission to the People's Republic of China which was led by officials from his department.

Mr Varley said that, in addition to officials from his department, the mission contained representatives from six British companies and the Institute of Geological Sciences. Encouraging technical and commercial discussions were held in Beijing (Peking) about possible collaboration on a wide range of mining and processing projects, and visits were paid to several sites.

Wednesday, 14 February

Trade with China
Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked what was the policy of the government on facilitating the payment by China for the exports of British goods to China which the government was seeking to promote; what was the extent of the financial commitment by the government and public bodies; and what would be the consequences of any failure by China to fulfil its obligations to pay.

Mr Meacher replied that all the normal facilities of the Export Credits Guarantee Department were currently available for exports to this market. A $1.2 billion credit facility involving 10 British banks and supported by ECGD was arranged last December with the Bank of China to finance contracts for plant and equipment and associated services placed with Chinese trading organisations during the period ending June 1980. No business had so far been negotiated under these facilities. Contract negotiations were in progress on the part of both public and private sector companies for major projects in China, but as yet no contracts involving medium or long-term credit had been signed. In the light of this it would appear to be premature to speculate on the consequences of China failing to fulfil its payment obligations.

Reciprocal tariff concessions
Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would make a statement on his department's attitude towards a policy of real reciprocity in world textile trading with particular reference to the recent developments in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade multilateral trade negotiations.

Mr Meacher said in the multilateral trade negotiations the European economic community was seeking from its industrialised trading partners reciprocal tariff concessions to match community offers of tariff cuts on manufactured goods. He fully supported this policy, and attached particular importance to reaching a balanced agreement in respect of the textile sector. Concessions were being sought from the developing countries to the extent that their level of economic development permitted. UK imports of textile products from the developing world were controlled by the restrictions in the multifibre arrangement.

Thursday, 15 February

Safety of fishermen
Austin Mitchell (Grimsby) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he had received the report of the working group on the occupational safety of fishermen.

Mr Clinton Davis said the report had now been received and arrangements were being made for its publication. The principal task of the working group was to produce an up-to-date code of safety for fishermen and he welcomed the recommendation in the report that the revised code should be adopted by all sea-going sectors of the UK fishing industry. The group had also prepared a separate handbook dealing with personal safety on board fishing vessels and copies would be issued free of charge to all fishermen engaged in the industry. The report recommended the development of statutory regulation governing accident reporting, safety of access and the testing, examination and inspection of lifting and hauling machinery and the marking of safe working loads. This work would be put in hand immediately in consultation with all interests concerned.

Malaysian air-service agreement
Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked the Secretary of State for Trade about the position of discussions with Malaysia on a revised air-service agreement and about the position on the overflying of Malaysia by Concorde.

Mr Clinton Davis answered that, following the preliminary discussions on a revised air-service agreement held in London in May, a further round of talks was held in Kuala Lumpur last week. Substantial progress was made in agreeing the modalities for capacity determination on the routes between Malaysia and the UK and Hong Kong. The Malaysians were given assurances about their planned airbus services to Hong Kong, beginning at the latter end of this year, and an indication that when the planned re-arrangements for services between the UK and south-east Asia and Australia were introduced, there would be room for additional MAS capacity on the route to London. Concorde had been flying supersonically through Malaysian airspace along the straits of Malacca since the service to Singapore resumed on 24 January. This had followed an announcement by the Malaysian government on 15 December last year that supersonic overflight could be resumed for a trial period of six months.

Textile ceilings
Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would publish a list of all those countries exporting textiles to the United Kingdom which exceeded the 1978 ceiling or presumed trigger level for: cotton yarn; stranded woven cotton fabrics; woven spun synthetic fabric; household textiles and furnishing articles; terry towels and towelling; handkerchiefs; bedlinen; spun synthetic yarn, not for retail sale; spun regenerated yarn, not for retail sale; woven pile fabrics; woven filament synthetic fabrics; woven filament regenerated fabrics; woven spun regenerated fabrics; and woven table, toilet and kitchen linen; and by how much the ceilings were exceeded to the period January to December 1978.

Mr Meacher said that there was no direct relationship between 1978 import statistics and quota levels. Apparent discrepancies might arise for various reasons such as additional imports licensed only for re-export, shipments arriving in 1978 but shipped in 1977 and therefore not counting against the 1978 quota, or the legitimate use of flexibility provisions in the agreements. In the case of products covered by formal quotas for 1978, import licences issued by the department for goods shipped in the 1978 quota year in no case exceeded the 1978 quota level. Imports of the products named from countries with mfa bilateral agreements with the EEC and which were not subject to restraint on 1 January 1978 exceeded the relevant UK trigger levels in the following cases:

Woven spun synthetic fabric	Brazil
Bed linen	South Korea
Woven pile fabrics	Colombia
	Hong Kong
Woven filament synthetic fabrics	India

Action was being pursued with the EEC commission on the Brazilian case. Imports of bed linen from South Korea did not exceed the relevant UK trigger level if imports for re-export were excluded. While the UK pursued trigger bases with the EEC commission automatically for the 17 most sensitive textile and clothing products, it had been agreed with the industry that it was for them to request action on other products. No such requests had been received on woven pile fabrics or woven filament synthetic fabrics. For the Mediterranean countries, and for those covered by the Lomé convention, the trigger levels were not a principal criterion for action. In a number of cases, however, action had been taken or was being taken to restrict imports of the products concerned.

Gatt trade negotiations
Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked what progress to reduce tariffs with the United States of America, Australia, Canada, Japan, South Africa, Brazil and Korea had so far been made in the current General Agreement on Tariffs and trade multilateral trade negotiations.

Mr Meacher replied that the United States, Australia, Canada and Japan had all made offers based on a tariff harmonising formulae designed to give average cuts of 40 per cent. They were making exceptions for particularly sensitive products, and taking account of those, the outcome in each case was likely to be about 25 to 30 per cent. South Korea had offered a cut of approximately equal value. The South African and Brazilian offers were at present considerably smaller. The precise details of the negotiations, which were continuing, were confidential.

BL corporate plan
Audrey Wise (Coventry South West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would make it a condition of providing for the financial provision for the National Enterprise Board for the funding of British Leyland that all employees of that company were fully informed of the company's corporate plan in so far as it effected particular plants.

Mr Kaufman replied that the government would continue to base its funding proposals on the criteria already announced. The government did, however, attach the greatest importance to full consultations between management and employees and to the management providing adequate information to enable meaningful discussions to take place.

Friday, 16 February

Sime Derby
John Lee (Birmingham, Handsworth) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would refer the Sime Derby bid for the Guthrie Company to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Fraser replied that the secretary of state had decided that this merger did not raise sufficient issues of public interest to warrant an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Home accidents
Arthur Latham (City of Westminster, Paddington) in two questions asked the Secretary of state for Prices and Consumer Protection whether the data from the first annual report of the home accident surveillance system showed the products, articles or features involved in home accidents for people aged 65 years or more, and the activity of the victim when the accident took place.

Mr Fraser said the first annual report on the Home Accident Surveillance System was published in May 1978 and included summarised general information on products, articles or features involved in the accidents and also the activities of the victims when the incidents occurred. Data of this kind relating to particular age groups would be provided on request and he would arrange for information concerning patients aged 65 or over to be extracted.

Monthly Digest of Statistics

A compendium, compiled by the Central Statistical Office, of basic information across a wide range of 19 different subjects including population, employment and price statistics, social services, production and output, energy, construction, transport, catering, home and overseas finance, and the weather. It contains mostly runs of monthly and quarterly estimates for at least two years and annual figures for several more.

Price £2.10. ISSN 0308-6666. Annual subscription including supplement of definitions and postage £30.16. From HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH.

Overseas trade news

Textiles: better protection now – Smith

As a result of arrangements negotiated under the new multifibre arrangement (mfa) and related EEC agreements with Mediterranean suppliers, Britain's textiles and clothing industry now has more comprehensive protection against low-cost imports than ever before, said Secretary of State for Trade John Smith on 15 February.

Speaking to trade union leaders in Manchester, he explained that the new mfa had provided the industry with a basis for the stability that it needed 'to invest, to expand, to innovate and to sell more at home and abroad'. It compared favourably with the protection for the textiles and clothing industry negotiated under the previous (1973) arrangement (see box). Mr Smith added that, with other restraint arrangements, 98 per cent of the UK's low-cost textiles and clothing imports were now covered by actual or potential quotas.

He pointed out that in addition to the quotas already agreed, there was a provision in all the agreements which allowed the EEC to impose new quotas where necessary. 'And the general arrangements for managing the quotas are much more specific and detailed than before.'

Looking ahead to the expiry of the present mfa agreements at the end of 1982, Mr Smith said there were some who had argued that the mfa should not be renewed. 'My own view is that continuing restriction on low-cost imports must continue in some form throughout the 1980s. Indeed the tariff offers being made by the EEC in the multilateral trade negotiations are based on this assumption and the government is committed to maintaining a strong and viable industry.'

Other assistance

Mr Smith also listed other help made available to the clothing and textiles industry.

Over the last five years, he said, the government had offered £75.8 million of selective financial assistance to the textiles and clothing industry towards total project costs of more than £500 million. The industry had been a major beneficiary of the temporary employment subsidy, covering more than 40 000 workers. 'And only last week we set up an EDC for the cotton and allied industries, to bring the "Lancashire industry" fully into the government's Industrial Strategy.

'It is now for the industry – individual firms, both workers and management – to adjust to meet the demands of the markets in the 1980s. Protection against low-cost imports can only provide a framework. Within that framework, the industry needs to move upmarket and specialise in higher quality goods. It needs to innovate. And it needs to fight, as vigorously as it can, for an increasing share of the home and overseas markets.'

Protection under the 1978 multifibre arrangement

- ☐ More countries now covered – 30 compared with 14 under previous arrangements
- ☐ More products now covered – 123 compared with about 60 before
- ☐ More quotas established – over 400 compared with under 100 under the 1973 mfa
- ☐ Global ceilings for all low-cost imports of the eight most sensitive products – a wholly new arrangement to deal with cumulative disruption
- ☐ Low growth-rates, particularly on the most sensitive products – in some cases as little as 1 per cent or less compared with 6 per cent or more under the 1973 mfa
- ☐ New tighter arrangements for Mediterranean suppliers which now cover five-sixths of UK imports from them (with some negotiations to be concluded)
- ☐ A new tighter system of policing the Mediterranean arrangements, including a 'warning bell' if import limits are in danger of being reached or exceeded.

Energy know-how is export asset – Smith

Energy expertise is becoming an increasingly valuable export asset for Britain said Secretary of State for Trade John Smith on 14 February. He told the annual dinner of the Institute of Petroleum in London that in the coal mining, oil, gas and related power generation and energy industries, the considerable knowledge and equipment developed in this country were all in growing demand abroad.

A number of British companies, he said, was taking advantage of the unique experience gained in the offshore field to provide engineering support for offshore developments in Brazil, Venezuela and Australia. The British Gas Corporation's wide domestic experience enabled it to advise a range of countries from Egypt and Algeria to Thailand on everything from contract negotiations with developers to the modernisation of pipeline systems.

In China, the National Coal Board's subsidiary, British Coal International, was pursuing with the Chinese the possibility of developing new areas of coal which could lead ultimately to contracts for consultancy, construction and equipment worth several hundred million pounds. Talks were also continuing in China on supplying plant for its extensive power station programme and in some 35 countries the Electricity Council was carrying out consultancy work, opening up a number of potential hardware orders for British plant makers.

On the effect of Britain's increasing energy self-sufficiency at home, Mr Smith said that whatever pace world economic growth finally settled at in the 1980s, the UK would at least be let off the hook of continually rising energy import costs – a prospect facing most of its competitors. However, energy self-sufficiency offered no guarantee against economic difficulties or of improving this country's relative industrial performance. He referred to Japan's and West Germany's return to 'very comfortable' trade surpluses since 1973, despite the heavy cost of their energy imports and, he pointed out, 'both are expected to grow faster than the UK this year'.

Mr Smith stressed that if Britain could not begin to solve the cumulative economic, industrial and structural problems that had held back the growth rate in the post-war period with the help of the economic advantages of the energy position, there had to be very real doubts about whether they could be solved at all when these advantages started to run out. 'And if that is true it follows that the time available to make the industrial, economic and social changes we need is now very short.

'That must mean above all industrial investment, as well as continued investment in energy conservation and new energy resources. The level of industrial investment last year was reasonably encouraging, but a great deal more will be needed to get anywhere near the technological resources employed in much of German and Japanese industry.'

Duke of Kent warns about poor design and quality

Exporters who rely for their business on cheap merchandise of poor design and indifferent quality and who pay little heed to what customers really want will likely face a rude awakening, said the Duke of Kent, vice chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, on 14 February.

Not only would they find overseas markets increasingly hard to penetrate and steadily less profitable, but they would be wide open to the icy draught of foreign imports in their home market as well, said the Duke, speaking at the annual export lunch of the Institute of Export.

The exporter likely to succeed was the one who had the courage to invest in quality – in skilled manpower, talented designers, good and enlightened management, attractive packaging, and the necessary production capacity.

'If we want to maintain a standard of living comparable with that of our western Europe neighbours, and several of them are already outstripping us quite noticeably, we have got to devote all our efforts to making sure we can compete effectively with them, which means at the expensive, high-technology end of the market,' the Duke said.

One of the 'most worrying' aspects of the present trade situation was that imports especially of manufactured goods, had grown very sharply. 'Imports and exports are two sides of the same coin and success abroad should help us to develop the competitive strength to defend our home market. That it is

failing at the moment to do so, while no doubt due to a variety of causes, should make us pause and think about Britain's place in world trade.'

The Duke said he was also concerned that export orders delayed by strikes, for whatever reason, might well be orders permanently lost. 'Time and again our overseas customers tell me the one thing they cannot tolerate is their suppliers failing to deliver: my concern is that some of those customers who have been let down will decide not to order from Britain again.'

Many firms might get better results from the resources devoted to exporting if they took the trouble to ensure that their export staff were properly trained and prepared for the task. 'Success in exporting, like success in any challenging environment, is not likely to be achieved without hard and dedicated preparation in developing the necessary skills.'

Dowty equipment heads for China

One of the first batch of four-leg 550 tonnes chock shields for export to the People's Republic of China being loaded at Dowty Mining Equipment's Ashchurch factory. The supports are part of an £82 million order from China for Dowty roof supports, AFCs and belt conveyors.

Spring missions to north America

Four important trade missions sponsored by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and supported by the British Overseas Trade Board will visit many cities in the United States and Canada between now and May. Members will have discussions with state and official bodies, leading industrialists and bankers.

Three of the missions, of the general 'scatter' type, are not yet fully booked. The first will originate in St Louis, Missouri, where main opportunities currently include chemicals and chemical equipment, brewery equipment, printing equipment, hospital supplies, electronic equipment and aircraft components.

In March, a mission will originate in Toronto, Ontario. Despite the UK's adverse balance of payments with Canada, there is still scope for improving Britain's export position and increasing sales of both capital and consumer goods, with opportunities in clothing, foodstuffs, medical and surgical equipment, hobby supplies, games, toys, ceramics, giftware, hardware, books, commercial broadcast and hi-fi equipment, metal-working and packaging machinery.

The third 'scatter' mission will start from Cleveland, Ohio, preceded by an Ohio winter seminar on 30 March presented in conjunction with the State Office in Europe. Opportunities in the area include automotive products, steelmaking equipment, mining equipment, aircraft components, forging and casting, coatings and chemicals, design and plant construction, and machine tools.

The London chamber also has details of a high-level mission to Atlanta, Georgia, from 15 to 26 May. It will be led by Lord James Crichton-Stuart, a director of Coutts and Co and chairman of the chamber's north American committee. Meetings with senior officials have been arranged in Georgia. There will also be similar facilities in North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Florida and Louisiana, time and members' personal interest permitting. The closing date for applications is the end of this month.

Store promotions boost for exports

An extra £4 million of British consumer goods will be sold through three British Overseas Trade Boards – supported retail store promotions in France, Japan and the United States this year. There are good prospects for further growth in future years. Other department and speciality stores throughout the world will be staging similar promotions, reflecting the growing demand for a wide range of British merchandise.

Lifestyle theme

In France, Au Printemps will hold a nationwide promotion for a month beginning on 21 September through 31 retail outlets in major cities. Centred on the group's Boulevard Haussmann store in Paris, the event will be even larger than Au Printemps' first British promotion in 1977. For the 1979 event, the group is planning, particularly in its main Paris store, presentation on a British lifestyle theme.

In Japan, in October, the major department store of Mitsukoshi will be mounting the largest event yet in a series of biennial promotions which started in the 1960s. These promotions have steadily increased the range and quantity of British goods in the group's stores and now millions of pounds worth of British goods are sold every year. The 1979 promotion will have a Queen Victoria theme presenting a picture of nineteenth century Britain through a variety of valuable and genuine exhibits.

A Scottish theme will dominate the presentation planned by Neiman Marcus of Dallas, Texas – one of the United States' most famous speciality stores. The British promotion, from 15 to 27 October will be the store's first for seven years.

British firms interested in providing merchandise for overseas stores' promotions, sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, should contact Mr T. Webb, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7090.

UK firms to push for larger share of German market

Over 370 British firms will seek to expand their sales exports to West Germany – currently Britain's biggest overseas market, after the United States, by exhibiting at 10 international trade fairs in the Federal Republic next month.

At the Frankfurt international fair from 4 to 8 March, Britain will again be the largest overseas exhibitor with 186 firms compared to 167 in 1978 and 149 in 1977. There will be eight joint ventures sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board in conjunction with the British Stationery and Office Products Federation, the Design Council, the British Jewellery and Giftware Federation, the British Ceramic Manufacturers Federation, the Piano Manufacturers Association, the British Artmetal Manufacturers Export Group, the Association of Musical Instrument Industries, and the UK Cutlery and Silverware Association.

Bigger participation

There will also be a bigger British participation at the biennial 'Equitana' – the international exhibition of horse sports, leisure time, riding and horsekeeping – in Essen from 7 to 12 March. This year's BOTB-sponsored joint venture of 40 companies, compared to 36 at the last event in 1977, is organised by the British Agricultural Export Council.

At the seventeenth European education

materials exhibition, 'Didacta', an itinerant event to be held in Düsseldorf from 27 to 31 March, BOTB is assisting 46 companies in two joint ventures arranged by the Book Development Council and the British Educational Equipment Association.

Also in March, BOTB will support joint ventures at Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Wiesbaden and Offenbach. British products to be promoted include heating and air-conditioning equipment, leather goods, automatic test equipment, hotel catering and bakery equipment, footwear and clothing and sanitation equipment.

Cover on UK exports to Iran suspended

Insurance cover on new business with Iran was suspended by the Export Credits Guarantee Department from 15 February. ECGD points out that existing commitments are not affected. But exporters insured with ECGD are being asked to consult the department before letting further shipments go forward under existing contracts.

The decision to suspend cover was announced in the commons on 15 February by Secretary of State for Trade John Smith. He explained that the suspension had become necessary because of the practical difficulties of conducting trade with Iran, in particular the current problem of obtaining up-to-date credit information on Iranian buyers.

Mr Smith said the department would continue to keep conditions in the market under review, with the object of resuming cover as soon as possible.

ECGD consults on Cardiff move

In order to provide a means of exchanging views with exporters on the move of 800 headquarters' posts from London to Cardiff between now and 1981, the Export Credits Guarantee Department and its policyholders set up a consultative committee. The committee has met twice in London and a third meeting will take place in Birmingham in April.

Joint chairmen of the consultative committee are Derek Smith, head of ECGD's comprehensive guarantee group, and John Boisseau, deputy chairman of Tennant Guaranty Ltd.

UK aid for Cairo's sewerage system

Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Overseas Development John Tomlinson has approved the allocation of aid funds totalling £2.1 million to Egypt towards the cost of an Anglo-American consultancy to study improvements to the sewerage system in Cairo. British members of the consultancy team will be drawn from two London-based firms, John Taylor and Sons and Binnie and Partners.

The team will draw up plans for the rehabilitation and repair of the sewerage system of Greater Cairo and for the training of technical personnel in the local sewerage and sanitary drainage organisation. They will also evaluate the existing phased plan of the development of Cairo's system up to the year 2000.

The Egyptian government commissioned a full feasibility study of the network in 1976. This was also carried out by a team from John Taylor and Sons and Binnie and Partners and, on the basis of their report, it was agreed in principle that £50 million British aid should be used to meet the off-shore costs of priority schemes within an overall sewerage development programme. Further aid for this programme, worth $100 million, is being provided by the United States Agency for International Development.

Two-day BIM course on export sales

A two-day course on developing export sales is being organised by the British Institute of Management in Cheshire on 29 and 30 March.

The course, to be held at the Bowdon Hotel, Bowdon, Altrincham, has been designed to meet the needs of companies expanding their export sales effort and it will consider how companies should be structured to meet overseas customers' needs. It will focus on selecting and researching export markets; use of agents and distributors; setting up overseas subsidiaries; pricing for the market; methods of distribution; advertising and product and service promotion; and the foreign exchange market.

Further information: Derek Kinston or Elsie Morris, BIM North West Regional Office, Fuel House, 49 Bolton Road, Farnworth, Bolton BL4 7JN, tel. Farnworth (0204) 74601.

UK paper at Imco's Tokyo seminar

Britain is presenting a paper at this week's seminar on tanker safety and pollution prevention, organised in Tokyo by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (Imco). The paper – 'implementation and enforcement of conventions and protocols' – is being given by John Archer, head of marine division at the Department of Trade.

Mr Archer, who travelled to Japan at the invitation of Imco, chaired the second part of the seminar.

New UK address for German chamber

The German Chamber of Industry and Commerce has moved to new premises at 12/13 Suffolk Street, St James's, London SW1Y 4HG. The chamber's telex number remains as 919 442 but the telephone number has been changed to 01-930 7251.

Hong Kong railway contract for Transmark . . .

Transmark, British Railways' subsidiary consultancy company, has been awarded a major contract by the Hong Kong government in connection with the modernisation of the Kowloon-Canton railway between Kowloon and the border with the People's Republic of China at Lo Wu (see supplement, centre pages).

Transmark will provide project management for the total modernisation contract which includes track doubling, new signalling, the installation of 25 kV overhead electrification and the provision of 45 three-car sets of electrical multiple unit passenger rolling stock.

Additional specialist consultancy services to be provided by Transmark include the design and installation of four-aspect signalling between Kowloon and Racecourse, the new station recently opened to deal with racecourse traffic at Shatin.

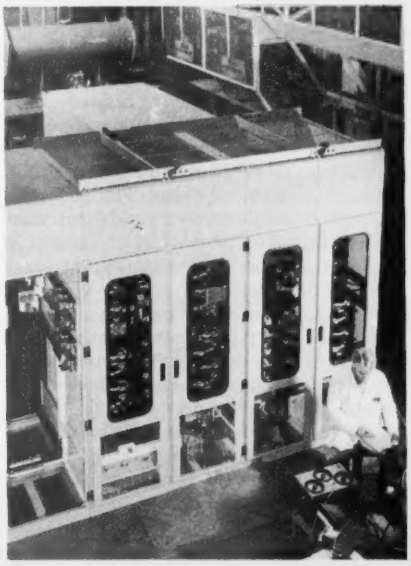
. . . and for GEC

Another order, worth £10 million, has been received by GEC Rectifiers from the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway Corporation. It covers power supply equipment for the seven-mile Tsuen Wan extension of the underground railway system.

The latest order follows on-time delivery and switch-on, and satisfactory performance of equipment on the initial Chater-to-Kwun Tong 10-mile section. The new equipment will increase the total capacity of GEC Rectifiers installed on this system to 92 000 kW and the contract will provide work for GEC factories at Stafford, Manchester, Broadstairs, Gravesend and Birtley.

Deliveries will be spread from mid-1980 to mid-1981, and the erection programme will be completed by GEC Hong Kong by early 1982.

This 4000 kW 1500 volt rectifier for the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway Corporation Chater-to-Kwun Tong section undergoes tests at GEC Rectifiers' Stafford works.



Code of conduct for companies with interests in South Africa

John Smith, Secretary of State for Trade, has commented on the performance of British companies under the code of conduct for companies with interests in South Africa.

In a written parliamentary reply on 15 February, Mr Smith said that British companies with interests in South Africa 'had demonstrated an awareness of the concern in the United Kingdom over the conditions under which black Africans were employed in South Africa, and a willingness to make improvements'.

Mr Smith was replying to a question on how many reports had been made by companies with interests in South Africa under the code of conduct and how far the reports showed that companies were implementing the code.

Mr Smith said that 173 companies had published reports by 31 January. Reports from 109 companies holding 50 per cent or more of the equity of a South African company employing 20 or more black Africans had been received by 10 November 1978 and these had been analysed in detail.

'As preparation for the next round of reports', Mr Smith added, 'I shall be writing to companies pointing out those matters which require attention to ensure fuller compliance with the code.'

The full text of the parliamentary answer is given in the following columns.

Background

The code of conduct was adopted by the foreign ministers of the European community on 20 September 1977. It was published, together with the government's guidance to British companies as a white paper in May last year (Cmnd 7233 'Code of conduct for companies with interests in South Africa'). The code of conduct of the nine superseded the United Kingdom's own code of practice, the subject of a 1974 white paper (Cmnd 5845 'Wages and conditions of African workers employed by British firms in South Africa').

The Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress were consulted about the government's guidelines for operating the code of conduct. The code is wider in scope than its predecessor, placing particular emphasis on the development in South Africa of a system of industrial relations based on collective bargaining between employers and institutions freely chosen by black African workers to represent them. The code also covers migrant labour, wages and fringe benefits, equality of opportunity and treatment in employment, and encouragement of black African advancement.

The UK is the first of the nine to publish an assessment of reports made under the code. The UK believes that other governments will wish to publish such assessments and will continue to encourage its partners to do so. The code states that the governments of the nine will annually review progress made in implementing the code. It is expected that the review will take place as soon as all governments have assessed the first results under the code.

Number of reports received

Following publication of the white paper on the new code of conduct (Cmnd. 7233 [1]) on 25 May 1978 my predecessor wrote to those companies believed to have interests in South Africa. A total of 173 reports were received by 31 January 1979 and the details are given below.

One hundred and thirty one reports were made by companies holding 50 per cent or more of the equity of a South African company employing 20 or more black Africans; they are listed at annex A. Such companies (designated category A) were asked to publish a full report under the code of conduct. Companies (designated category B) holding from 10 to 49 per cent of the equity of a South African company employing 20 or more black Africans were asked to publish as much information as possible under the code. The 13 category B companies which have published information under the code are listed at annex B. In addition information was published by 21 other companies (listed at annex C) with a South African affiliate employing less than 20 black Africans. A further 8 companies have published information in accordance with the superseded UK code of practice rather than the code of conduct, but they have indicated that they will report under the new code in future years; they are listed in annex D.

Two companies (Gallaher Ltd, Marley Ltd) have declined to publish a report under the code. Forty-five companies which received my predecessor's letter but which had not adequately reported by 31 January 1979 are listed at annex E.

Summary of reports

The 109 reports from companies in category A which had been received by 10 November 1978 have been analysed and information about the extent to which these companies are implementing sections 1 to 6 of the code has been summarised in the following paragraphs.

Section 1: relations within the undertaking

Section 1 of the code asks that 'companies should ensure that all their employees irrespective of racial or other distinction are allowed to choose freely . . . the type of organisation to represent them' and that, 'should black African employees decide that their representative body should be in the form of a trade union, the company should accept this decision'. Companies were therefore asked in the reporting format to state their policy towards consultation and collective bargaining with organisations, including trade unions, freely chosen and representative of employees, including black African employees, to state progress in implementing that policy and to state what negotiating machinery is established to conclude collective agreements on pay and working conditions on behalf of black African employees.

In their statements of policy many companies showed a willingness to recognise a trade union which is representative of black African employees, if black African employees so decide. However, in a majority of these cases, this was conditional on requirements such as the registration of black trade unions, the existence of multi-racial unions inclusive of black Africans, participation of such unions in the Industrial Council system or majority representation by the trade union concerned in a 'common interest group'. Many of these requirements are either not possible under present South African legislation or are unlikely to be achieved in present circumstances.

The organisation of black African employees within the trade union movement in South Africa is still at an early stage of development and only eight companies reported that they had recognised trade unions representative of their black African employees, one of which is an in-house union. (The eight companies are Barclays Bank International Ltd, BAT Industries Ltd, Thomas French and Sons Ltd, Lindustries Ltd, Lucas Industries Ltd, Smith and Nephew Associated Companies Ltd, Standard Chartered Bank Ltd and Cadbury Schweppes Ltd: the last-named has recognised an in-house union.) In addition, 10 companies out of the 56 which provided information on this point reported that a union had requested facilities to organise their black African employees.

The majority of companies showed a marked preference for in-house consultative systems, with 59 using liaison committees, six works committees, and seven reporting works and liaison committees in their various plants or subsidiary companies. Seven companies reported in-house, multi-racial consultative committees on which black Africans were represented. Four companies reported that they used informal methods and six that they had no forms of representation. Twelve did not state the form of representation in use.

Reports by 40 companies indicated that black African wages and conditions were negotiated within Industrial Councils by trade unions not representative of black African employees. Forty-two other companies said that wages and conditions were not determined by negotiation. In 15 cases, liaison/works committees did negotiate within companies. In the eight companies which had recognised trade unions, the unions concerned negotiated either directly within the company or within the industry.

Section 2: migrant labour

Section 2 of the code draws attention the the grave social and family problems caused by the system of migrant labour and asks employers to alleviate these problems as much as possible.

Only 27 of the 109 companies reported that they employed migrant labour. Of these 27 companies, six provided advisory services to migrants; three provided additional paid leave; four provided facilities for families. Six reported using the 'calling-in card' to expedite re-engagement of migrant workers after the compulsory return to their homes, but this figure could be higher as other companies reported that certain migrants had been in their employment for several years. Five companies gave financial assistance to migrants for leave transport, but under the influx control system this is compulsory for employers on recruitment and at the end of the period of employment. Two companies reported efforts, through outside organisations, to contribute to improved hostel accommodation.

Section 3: pay

The code calls for a 'minimum wage which should initially exceed by at least 50 per cent the minimum level estimated to satisfy the basic needs of an employee and his family'. Paragraph 6 of the explanatory guidance in Cmnd. 7233 equates the level of minimum wages advocated by the code with the higher datum levels for families of five or six published (together with lower datum levels from which the higher levels are projected) by three bodies – the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE), the University of South Africa (Unisa) and the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce (JCC).

The 109 companies employed approximately 98 000 black African employees. Of these, 87 per cent (some 85 000) were paid rates in excess of the higher datum levels used. This encouraging result was achieved despite comparatively high inflation in recent years. In addition a timetable to achieve the higher level in respect of all black employees was set by some companies and job evaluation methods were introduced in others. Eighty per cent of companies reviewed black African wages annually and a further 15 per cent more frequently, often in relation to the biannual publication of source data.

Over 12 000 black African employees (approximately 13 per cent) were however paid at rates below the higher datum level used and of these up to 2505 (approximately 2.5 per cent) employed by the 18 companies listed in annex F may be paid at rates below the lower datum level. Certain of these 18 reports, although stating that no black Africans were employed at rates below the lower level, indicated an incorrect use of source data. For example, indices for single employees or small families were used in place of the average family size defined in Cmnd 7233; in

[1] *Code of conduct for companies with interest in South Africa*: Government guidance to British companies on the code of conduct adopted by the governments of the nine member states of the European community on 20 September 1977.

some cases benefits in kind have apparently been over-valued.

Section 4: wage structure and black African advancement

Section 4 of the code states the principle of 'equal pay for equal work', stresses the importance also of equality of job opportunities, and urges companies both to provide training for black African employees and to reduce their dependence on immigrant white labour.

Of the 109 companies, 79 showed a clear acceptance of the principle of equal pay for equal work; 16 provided answers which were less specific and 14 did not state company policy on this matter. Equality of job opportunities was specifically accepted by 58 companies, 34 provided qualified or less than specific answers; 17 did not state the company policy.

Because of differences in presentation and content, it has not been possible to quantify the information provided about progress in the provision of job opportunities and advancement for black African employees. The majority of reports indicated that a high percentage of black employees filled unskilled or semi-skilled jobs, with relatively few doing more specialised work as, for example, clerks, laboratory assistants, survey assistants, vehicle drivers, industrial equipment drivers. Few occupy supervisory or managerial positions.

Nearly all companies provided some training for black African employees. This ranged from orientation/literacy courses to (in a few cases) management training but it was difficult to assess its extent or quality. Most training was 'on the job', supplemented in some cases by courses in company training centres or at government sponsored or private centres. Much of the training was for semi-skilled operatives, with specialised training for appropriate grades. A substantial number of companies provided either internal or external training in supervision, whilst very few provided managerial training.

The majority of companies reported that they either did not recruit overseas or did so only to the extent of recruiting specialised skills not available in South Africa. The reports indicated very little recruitment of this type during the past year.

Section 5: fringe benefits

Section 5 of the code urges companies to concern themselves with the living conditions of their employees and families and lists certain types of fringe benefit which might be adopted.

Of the 109 companies, 105 companies provided fringe benefits to varying degrees. Fifty-two companies had housing schemes (some by direct housing, some by direct loans and others through third parties). Twenty-two companies provided transport to and from the place of work or gave a transport allowance. Twenty-six companies offered indoor or outdoor leisure or sporting facilities. Advice on problems encountered by black African employees over their employment, residential qualification and freedom of movement was given by 20 companies. Pension schemes for black Africans were widespread with 104 companies operating them. Education schemes for black African employees or their families were reported by 53 companies. Insurance schemes covering life, injury, medical aid or funeral expenses were reported by 69 companies. Various other forms of fringe benefits such as free or subsidised canteens, bonus systems, paid leave or sick leave in excess of statutory requirements, were reported by 81 companies.

Section 6: desegregation at places of work

Section 6 of the code urges employers to do everything possible to abolish any practice of segregation, notably at the workplace and in canteens, sports activities, education and training.

Of the 109 companies, 75 companies reported that they had a policy on desegregation although in some cases this was not defined in specific terms. Workplace integration was reported by 57 companies, 26 reported partial integration in canteens (on a job grade basis rather than a racial one) and offices (as contrasted with factory premises). Two companies mentioned desegregated training centres, six reported multi-racial social functions. Three reported the removal from facilities of signs of a racial character. One company (Rank Xerox Ltd) reported integration of the workplace and all their amenities.

The law was cited by 47 companies as a factor preventing integration, particularly of lavatories, changing rooms, rest rooms and canteens. Seven others referred to the constraints imposed by social attitudes and customs. No information is available as to the number of black African employees sharing or partly sharing amenities with other races.

Comment

The number of reports received under the new code in its first year of operation was encouraging. The reporting format recommended in Cmnd. 7233 was very widely used, although in some cases more precise information was needed for an accurate assessment of company performance.

On industrial relations, the reports reflect the very limited degree of recognition accorded by employers to trade unions which are representative of their black African employees. Thus, few black African employees directly negotiate their own terms of service through independent organisations. The organisation of black African employees within the South African trade union movement is still at a formative stage. Nevertheless section 1A of the code urges companies to ensure that all their employees are allowed complete freedom of choice in deciding on the organisation to represent them. Although many companies accept this in principle, most of them set conditions which in practice severely curtail this freedom. As Cmnd 7233 pointed out, freedom of choice, in accordance with internationally accepted principles, may involve an employer in relationships with non-registered trade unions representative of black African employees and such unions are not unlawful in South Africa.

On pay, it is encouraging that 87 per cent of employees covered by the reports analysed appear to be paid above the higher datum levels recommended in Cmnd 7233. Nevertheless, the failure of some companies to attain the cash wage levels set by the lower datum indices is disturbing.

The fact that the majority of companies have accepted job evaluation as the basis for ensuring, as between differing racial groups (and sexes), the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' is welcome, as is the provision by the majority of some training facilities for black African employees. However, reports indicate that most black Africans are still employed in the lower ranges of occupations, that few are yet in supervisory or decision-taking positions and that, where they are, their responsibilities are usually limited to other black African employees. It is recognised that present conditions in South Africa place considerable handicaps on employers in this area, but there is scope for further progress.

Reports indicate a wide range of fringe benefits and an increasing awareness by companies of their social responsibilities, especially in those measures (such as housing, pensions and medical insurance schemes) which provide black Africans with a greater degree of social security, and in the provision of educational facilities which cater for adult workers and their families. Among the small number of companies employing migrant labour, several provided benefits to cater for their special needs, although this was often in response to legal requirements.

Whilst a majority of companies reported a policy of desegregation, specific progress reported was very limited. Although integration at the workplace is widespread, there is scope for greater effort to desegregate amenities on a pragmatic basis within South African law as recommended in Cmnd 7233.

In their response to the 1974 UK code of practice, and now the code of conduct of the nine member states of the European community, British companies with interests in South Africa have demonstrated an awareness of the concern in the United Kingdom over the conditions under which black Africans are employed in South Africa, and a willingness to make improvements. The government's object in calling for the publication of company reports is that parliament, the public, and company shareholders should have access to information allowing judgements to be made on the progress so far achieved by companies, on what remains to be done and at what pace.

Copies of the reports are available from the companies themselves and full sets of the reports received up to 31 January 1979 have been placed in the libraries of both Houses and may be consulted at the department's headquarters library. Copies of this answer will be sent to all the companies listed. In addition, as preparation for the next round of reports, I shall be writing to companies pointing out those matters which generally require attention to ensure fuller compliance with the code.

Annex A
Category A companies which have reported under the code of conduct

British companies designated category A are those holding 50 per cent or more the equity of a South African company employing 20 or more black Africans. Companies within this category were asked to publish, by 30 September 1978, detailed information about the performance of their South African subsidiaries in accordance with the reporting format set out in annex 3 of Cmnd 7233.

Up to 10 November 1978, 109 reports from Category A companies had been received by the Department of Trade and these have been analysed. A further 22 reports were received by 31 January 1979 but have not been analysed. The 131 companies from whom reports have been received are listed below (* indicates a company which sent a copy of its report to the Department of Trade after 10 November 1978).

Albright and Wilson Ltd
APV Holdings Ltd
Armitage Shanks Group Ltd
Armstrong Equipment Ltd
Associated British Foods Ltd
*Associated Engineering Ltd
Automotive Products Ltd
Averys Ltd
BAT Industries Ltd
*Babcock and Wilcox Ltd
Barclays Bank International Ltd
BBA Group Ltd
Beecham Group Ltd
Berec Group Ltd
Bestobell Ltd
Birmid Qualcast Ltd
BL Ltd
Blackwood Hodge Ltd
Blue Circle Industries Ltd
BOC International Ltd
The Boots Co Ltd
C. T. Bowring and Co Ltd
Bowthorpe Holdings Ltd
The British Electric Traction Co Ltd
The British Petroleum Co Ltd
British Vita Co Ltd
Brockhouse Ltd
Brooke Bond Liebig Ltd
Cadbury Schweppes Ltd
Cape Industries Ltd
Carrington Viyella Ltd
Chloride Group Ltd
Chubb and Son Ltd
Coates Brothers and Co Ltd
Coats Patons Ltd
A. Cohen and Co Ltd
Commercial Union Assurance Co Ltd
CompAir Ltd
*Concrete Utilities Ltd
Courtaulds Ltd
Crown House Ltd
Davy Corporation Ltd
Delta Metal Co Ltd
The Dickinson Robinson Group Ltd
Dunlop Holdings Ltd
Ellerman Lines Ltd
B. Elliott and Co Ltd
EMI Ltd
ERF (Holdings) Ltd
Exchem Holdings Ltd
J. H. Fenner and Co (Holdings) Ltd
Fisons Ltd
Thomas French and Sons Ltd
General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation Ltd
The General Electric Co Ltd
*Gestetner Holdings Ltd
Glaxo Holdings Ltd
The Great Universal Stores Ltd
*Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Ltd
*Haden Carrier Ltd
Hawker Siddeley Group Ltd
*P. C. Henderson Group Ltd
Heywood Williams Group Ltd
*Hickson and Welch (Holdings) Ltd
Hill Samuel Group Ltd
Hoover Ltd
*Howden Group Ltd
Hunting Associated Industries Ltd
ICL Ltd
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd
International Distillers and Vintners Ltd
Johnson and Firth Brown Ltd
H. and R. Johnson Richards Tiles Ltd
Johnson Matthey and Co Ltd
George Kent Ltd
Lead Industries Group Ltd
Lindustries Ltd
Thomas Locker (Holdings) Ltd
Lonrho Ltd
Lopex Ltd
*Lowe and Fletcher Ltd
Lucas Industries Ltd
*Manders (Holdings) Ltd
Metal Box Ltd
Metal Closures Group Ltd
*Midland Bank Ltd
*Mitchell Cotts Group Ltd
Norwich Union Life Insurance Society
A. Oppenheimer and Co Ltd
Samuel Osborn and Co Ltd
Pilkington Brothers Ltd
*Plessey Company Ltd
The Prestige Group Ltd
Prudential Assurance Co Ltd
Rank Xerox Ltd
*Rank Hovis McDougall Ltd
RCF Holdings Ltd
Reckitt and Colman Ltd
Reed International Ltd
Renold Ltd
Rentokil Group Ltd
Revertex Chemicals Ltd
The Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation Ltd
Rowntree Mackintosh Ltd
*Sanderson Kayser Ltd
Selection Trust Ltd
Shell International Petroleum Co Ltd
Simon Engineering Ltd
600 Group Ltd
Smith and Nephew Associated Companies Ltd
*Smiths Industries Ltd
Standard Chartered Bank Ltd
*Stone-Platt Industries Ltd
Tarmac Ltd
Tate and Lyle Ltd
Taylor Woodrow Ltd
Thorn Electrical Industries Ltd
Tioxide Group Ltd
*Trafalgar House Ltd
*Trust Houses Forte Ltd
Tube Investments Ltd
Twinlock Ltd
Unicorn Industries Ltd
Unilever Ltd
United Wire Group Ltd
*USMC International Ltd
*The Valor Company Ltd
Vickers Ltd
The Wellcome Foundation Ltd
Wilkinson Match Ltd
Thomas Witter and Co Ltd

Annex B, C, D, E and F on next page.

Annex B
Category B companies which have reported under the code of conduct

British companies designated category B are those holding from 10-49 per cent of the equity of a South African company employing 20 or more black Africans. Companies within this category were not called upon to follow the detailed reporting format but were asked to publish as much information as possible on the policy and practices of their South African affiliates in respect of the areas covered in the code. Up to 31 January 1979, the Department of Trade had received reports from the following category B companies.

Acrow Ltd
BPB Industries Ltd
Bridon Ltd
Illingworth Morris and Co Ltd
Kleinwort Benson Ltd
McKechnie Bros Ltd
Rediffusion Ltd
Redland Ltd
Royal Insurance Ltd
Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd
Swan Hunter Group Ltd (now Gosforth Industrial Holdings Ltd)
Weir Group Ltd
Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd

Annex C
Companies, not in categories A and B, which have reported under the code of conduct

Companies not in categories A and B, ie with South African affiliates employing fewer than 20 black Africans, were not called upon to provide detailed reports but were asked wherever possible at least to state publicly how many Africans they employed and whether their pay and conditions of employment were in line with the code. Up to 31 January 1979 reports were received from companies within this definition and they are listed below:

G. and S. Allgood Ltd
Amalgamated Metal Corporation Ltd
British Airways
The British Printing Corporation Ltd
British Tourist Authority
Decca Ltd
T. L. Elliott Oversea Ltd
The Guthrie Corporation Ltd
L. G. Harris and Co Ltd
Alexander Howden Group Ltd
Hutchinson Ltd
J. Lyons and Co Ltd
Matthews Wrightson Holdings Ltd
Pearson Longman Ltd
George Salter and Co Ltd
Scapa Group Ltd
Sedgwick Forbes Holdings Ltd
Telephone Rentals Ltd
The Thomson Organisation Ltd
United City Merchants Ltd
B. S. and W. Whiteley Ltd

Annex D
Companies which have reported in accordance with the superseded UK code of practice

The following companies have indicated that although their 1978 report has been made in accordance with the superseded UK code of practice (Cmnd. 5845), they intend to publish future information in accordance with the code of conduct:

Anderson Strathclyde Ltd
Fodens Ltd
Foseco Minsep Ltd
Guest Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd
The Low and Bonar Group Ltd
SGB Group Ltd
Turner and Newall Ltd
Jonas Woodhead and Sons Ltd

Annex E
Companies which had not adequately reported up to 31 January 1979

The following companies received the letter from the Secretary of State for Trade of 25 May 1978 but had either not replied by 31 January 1979, or had not sent by 31 January 1979 a report which had been promised (indicated by *), or had provided information insufficiently comprehensive to be regarded as a report (indicated by †). Of those companies which had made no response, it is not known how far they still have an obligation to report under the various categories defined in Cmnd 7233 and, if so, whether they intend to report:

Amalgamated Power Engineering Ltd
The Associated Octel Co Ltd
BICC Ltd
*Brent Chemicals International Ltd
†British and Commonwealth Shipping Co Ltd
British Steel Corporation (International) Ltd (reported on 6 February 1979)
†David Brown Gear Industries Ltd
†John Brown and Co Ltd
BTR Ltd
†The Burmah Oil Co Ltd
Caravans International Ltd
*Cavenham Ltd
C. and J. Clark Ltd
*†Consolidated Gold Fields Ltd
*Croda International Ltd
†Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd
W. and G. Foyle Ltd
Glynwed Ltd (reported on 7 February 1979)
Grundy (Teddington) Ltd
Hall Engineering (Holdings) Ltd
Kalamazoo Ltd
Lamont Holdings Ltd
Legal and General Assurance Society Ltd (reported on 6 February 1979)
Lockwoods Foods Ltd
Marchwiel Holdings Ltd
Mather and Platt Ltd
May and Hassell Ltd
Minet Holdings Ltd
The Morgan Crucible Co Ltd
National Employers' Mutual General Insurance Association Ltd (reported on 2 February 1979)
Newey Group Ltd
Newman Tonks Ltd
Northern Engineering Industries (Overseas) Ltd (reported on 8 February 1979)
†Portals Holdings Ltd
Pritchard Services Group Ltd
Record Ridgway Ltd
Serck Ltd
*Spooner Industries Ltd
†The Steetley Co Ltd
Sun Alliance and London Insurance Ltd
* Thomas Tilling Ltd
†Tootal Ltd
†The Union International Co Ltd
Willis Faber Ltd
† George Wimpey and Co Ltd

Annex F
Black African employees paid at rates below the lower datum level

The companies listed below supplied information which indicated that collectively they employed up to 2505 black Africans at rates of pay below the lower datum level of the source in use. This figure was 13 per cent of the overall total (19 000) of black Africans employed by these companies. Reports from certain of these companies (those asterisked), although stating that no black Africans were employed at rates below the lower level, indicated an incorrect use of source data. For example, indices for single employees or small families were used in place of the average family size defined in Cmnd. 7233; in some cases benefits in kind have apparently been over-valued.

Company	Total black African employees	Number of black African employees paid below lower datum level
* BAT Industries Ltd	1 811	237
BOC International Ltd	2 585	44
*The British Electric Traction Co Ltd	3 375	7
British Vita Co Ltd	30	13
*The Dickinson Robinson Group Ltd	483	32
Thomas French and Sons Ltd	43	17
*Glaxo Holdings Ltd	177	10
*The Great Universal Stores Ltd	651	30
*Hill Samuel Group Ltd	64	1
International Distillers and Vintners Ltd	269	90
*Lindustries Ltd	244	19
*Lonrho Ltd	7 176	Not known precisely, up to 1 718
Lopex Ltd	125	1
*Rentokil Group Ltd	106	8
*Tarmac Ltd	423	46
Twinlock Ltd	94	3
*Wilkinson Match Ltd	1 076	109
Thomas Witter and Co Ltd	125	120
	18 857	Up to 2 505

Disclosure of import information

Consideration is being given, under section 3 of the Finance Act 1967, to the disclosure of information on the following goods:

SITC (R2)/Trade description	Code no.
723.3	
Road rollers mechanically prepared:	
Vibration-type	8409 1000
Other mechanically propelled road rollers	8409 3000
723.41	
Bulldozers, angledozers and levellers, self-propelled	8423 1300
723.42	
Mechanical shovels and excavators, self-propelled:	
Used	8423 1110
New:	
Self-propelled single bucket units with fully slewing upper structure – hydraulically operated	8423 1130
Integrated tractor digger combinations (ie rear diggers, tractor mounted)	8423 1140
Other excavators, trenchers and diggers	8423 1150
Tractor shovels:	
Tracked	8423 1161
Wheel-mounted (other than rail-wheel mounted):	
Four-wheel drive:	
Not exceeding 2300 litres rated bucket capacity	8423 1181
Exceeding 2300 litres rated bucket capacity	8423 1185
723.43	
Other excavating, levelling, tamping, boring and extracting machinery for earth, minerals or ores, self-propelled:	
Self-propelled, track-laying or wheeled, not capable of running on rails:	
Other machinery	8423 1700
723.46	
Other excavating, levelling, tamping and extracting machinery for earth, minerals or ores, not self-propelled:	
Other excavating, levelling, tamping and extracting machinery:	
Other	8423 3599
744.22	
Ships' derricks; cranes (other than cable cranes);	
mobile lifting cranes:	
Self-propelled cranes on wheels, not capable of running on rails:	
Jib:	
Travelling cranes	8422 0315
782.1	
Motor vehicles for the transport of goods or materials:	
Other:	
With either a spark ignition or a compression ignition engine:	
Motor lorries with either a spark ignition engine of a cylinder capacity of 2800 cc or more or a compression ignition engine of a cylinder of 2500 cc or more:	
Dumpers of a cylinder capacity:	
Of less than 10 000 cc	8702 7200
Of 10 000 cc or more	8702 7600

The government is consulting the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 6-14 Dean Farrar Street, London SW1H 0DX, on these proposals, and the association will take into account any views received from importers by 16 March.

Inquiries: Economics and Statistics Division 5, Branch B2, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5770 or 01-215 5850.

ECGD addresses

The Export Credits Guarantee Department's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL, tel. 01-606 6699. ECGD has 10 local offices in various parts of the United Kingdom, and these are listed from time to time in *Trade and Industry*.

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Overseas trade exhibitions

First joint venture at Amsterdam fire service event

From Leo Zonneveld, British embassy, The Hague

Visitors at this year's international fire service exhibition held in the Europa Hall of the RAI exhibition complex, Amsterdam, from 23 to 27 January, were, at 26 000, over 50 per cent up on the 1975 figure. The event is organised every four years by RAI Gebouw BV under the auspices of the Dutch Association of Fire Chiefs.

On view was a large range of European firefighting equipment and products, including exhibits from about 50 British manufacturers. The exhibits included mobile fire-fighting equipment, such as fire engines, tools and equipment, hoses and extinguishers, rescue and first-aid equipment, and electronic alarm and communication equipment.

British exports of fire-fighting vehicles to the Netherlands has been negligible up to now, but Lips-Chubbs was recently successful in selling six airfield crash tenders to Schiphol Airport. One of them was on show on its exhibition stand. With 33.3 per cent and 14 per cent of total imports, Britain is the Netherlands' second largest supplier of fire hoses and the third of fire extinguishers, respectively. Total Dutch imports of fire hoses in 1977 amounted to 4.5 million florins (£1.1 million). Imports of extinguishers that year amounted to 15 million florins with a UK share of 2.1 million florins.

A well-designed British exhibit, supported by the British Overseas Trade Board in collaboration with the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, occupied part of the middle section of the Europa Hall. It was a first joint venture in this sector of the market. Seven British firms and the Birmingham chamber's information stand occupied two island stands. The range of products presented by the British group ranged from heat-resistant clothing to hydraulically operated, vehicle-mounted, extended boom fire-fighting cabins.

A British manufacturer which showed heat-resistant clothing took a large number of inquiries and met a potential agent, while a fire-resistant board manufacturer, which only started his Dutch subsidiary in April this year, also received a pleasing level of inquiries.

Banks, restaurants and shopping centres proved ideal end-users for the two British manufacturers of alarm-call and fire-detection systems, and the large multinational, ITT, showed interest in a licence agreement with one of them. A British manufacturer of fire hoses reported good inquiries from Austria, Germany and Sweden. Much international interest – with inquiries from Belgium, Switzerland and West Germany – was also reported for a hydraulically height-adjustable and de-mountable control unit which can be easily loaded on any trailer, exhibited by another member of the group.

British ambassador to the Netherlands Sir Richard Sykes (centre) touring British exhibits in Amsterdam.

'English look' scores in Paris

From Helen Taylor, British embassy, Paris

Demand by French buyers for British merchandise at the Salon International de l'Habillement Masculin (SEHM) – held in Paris from 3 to 6 February – was unprecedented. It confirmed the breakthrough in this field by UK manufacturers who have now reversed the terms of trade in Britain's favour.

This autumn, Paris stores and boutiques will be promoting the 'English look', as presented at the salon by Daks-Simpson, with its emphasis on sports wear. Suits and overcoats by Acuscutum were also in great demand, as was the knitwear of D. Byford and Co and Alan Paine and Co, which did particularly well this season. To complete the ensemble, buyers were also placing considerable orders with Church and Co, while two relative newcomers, Ian Mankin with leather goods, and Molmax with travel accessories, reported encouraging results. Major department stores placed orders for shirts with John Longford of London, and H. H. Winder also did extremely well with its pyjamas.

A great deal more

But this event offers a great deal more than buyers from France. It has come to be considered as the foremost exhibition of its kind in Europe and, of this year's 35 000 visitors, buyers from Japan and north America were much in evidence, as well as those from Europe. Cricket Manufacturing was surprised and delighted with the universal appeal of its blouson jackets, especially the reversible range lined with silk; Glencroft Knitwear also reported greatly increased sales, to Italy in particular, while Suedeclub won new customers from Japan, as well as Europe, and Inigo Jones reported widespread interest in its shirts.

British representation at the salon was larger than ever. Thirty-eight companies participated in the joint venture sponsored by the Clothing Export Council and 31 in another organised by British Menswear Guild.

Knitwear success

British manufacturers were also successful at the Salon International de la Maille held concurrently with SEHM. Since this is the only international event in Europe for the knitwear industry, British firms were well represented. A joint venture, sponsored by the British Knitting Export Council, included such household names as Courtaulds Knitwear and Pringle of Scotland, as well as bulk houses and firms producing specialist hand knits.

One of the big successes in this last category was Britella, with a co-ordinated range of garments in subtle colours; Hawico of Scotland, one of the most well-established exhibitors in the group, reported the best results ever for its quality knitwear; and Kinloch Anderson also did well with co-ordinates.

In the lingerie section, Janet Reger Ltd was predictably, the talk of the show, while Bella Donna, a newcomer presenting hand-printed lingerie with an oriental flavour, was considered by a number of buyers to have the most

British ambassador Sir Nicholas Henderson (right) admiring the shirts of Inigo Jones at SEHM.

original items at the salon. In the fabric hall Carrington Viyella reported very substantial sales, and Furzebrook made a number of contacts.

Children's clothes buoyant

Business was equally buoyant at the salon international de la Mode Enfantine, also held from 3 to 6 February, in an adjoining part of the Porte de Versailles exhibition park.

Again, the encouraging feature of the show was the unprecedented interest shown by French buyers in the 'English look'. Rob Roy, for instance, which took orders for children's coats, considers that it is now establishing itself in France after a number of appearances at the salon. The firm also presented a range of needlecord dresses which sold well, especially to Finland and Switzerland, while Sarah Louise succeeded in making contact with buyers from French department stores.

International buyers were much in evidence, from the United States, the Middle East and Japan in particular; and visitors from Finland were present in noticeably increased numbers. Among those who benefited most were, as always, David Charles and Major Minors Childrens Wear; they shared a stand showing ranges of attractive and practical girls' and boys' wear respectively and reported customers from as far afield as Hong Kong. And Emily Jane took a steady flow of orders for coats.

Individual successes like these had their effect on the final result. The National Childrenswear Association, which sponsored the joint-venture participants at this salon, reported that the value of business done was significantly greater than at the last event.

British clothes in Japan

A view of stands at 'British fashion '79', a sample show held at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo from 16 to 18 January. A group of 28 companies took part with British Overseas Trade Board backing.

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Overseas trade export services

Eastern bloc information service launched

In response to demand, particularly among smaller companies, the international business information company Dun and Bradstreet has opened a new service covering eastern bloc countries.

The service will provide background information about potential buyers of British goods in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, USSR and Yugoslavia. It will offer data under a range of headings – organisational history, product range, management and finance – as well as advice on import regulations and contractual matters.

Information is obtained directly from government sources, supplemented, whenever possible, by the company's inquiries with independent contacts. Dun and Bradstreet, which says it has already compiled detailed information on more than 800 potential east European trading partners for British companies, claims that existing reports can be with an inquirer in just four days and that the maximum reporting-back time on organisations requiring special research is 21 days.

Inquiries handled by Dun and Bradstreet's 10 UK branches – and a network of 255 offices in 115 overseas countries – are passed on to its Vienna office which co-ordinates investigations and compiles the reports.

The service is aimed generally at the smaller company which might be inhibited from venturing into eastern Europe because of a lack of information on the subject. It is the latest service to be added to Dun and Bradstreet's marketing information division, itself a recent development for a company which has made its name in the field of commercial credit reporting and debt collection.

Further information: circle 328

New sales arrangements for US service

New sales and marketing arrangements have been announced by SCOL for its conventional cargo service from Felixstowe to United States east coast ports. Under the new arrangements, Bahr, Behrend and Co will act as sales and marketing agent in support of its subsidiary company, Bahr, Behrend Roberts and Co in Felixstowe, which will continue as general loading brokers.

The service will be available through Bahr, Behrend offices in Liverpool, London, Manchester, Bradford, Sheffield, Stoke and Southampton.

SCOL operates monthly sailings from Felixstowe to Newhaven (New York), Philadelphia, Baltimore and Wilmington (North Carolina). The four ships used are of 5/6000 dwt, and have extensive heavy-lift capacity.

Further information: circle 329

Computer system for accurate documents

Mercury Air Freight International hopes to help eliminate customs delays to British exports at overseas airports with its new computer system for producing accurate export documents.

The company re-thought the procedure for producing export documents when its six-year-old operations computer system was due for renewal this year. In the new system, all 14 parts of the air waybill are printed and checked by computer.

Telephoned details of consignments are fed directly into the computer – there is no longer any need for information to be typed first. All previously used standard information can be keyed in by code, so that long, foreign-language addresses, or consignee's names, for example, can be reproduced exactly. A read-out on visual display units confirms the entry, and the computer printer places every item of information into the appropriate box on the pre-printed waybill, which Mercury redesigned for mechanisation.

Operations director Peter Quantrill explains that the new system allows Mercury to handle more cargo efficiently without being swamped by extra administration. Because invoices are produced automatically by the computer extracting information from the air waybills, he says, the work of operations staff no longer needs to be duplicated by the accounts department. But, he points out, Mercury has not committed the whole operations procedure to the computer. 'We can easily switch to manual production of documentation if necessary.'

Further information: circle 330

En route to Ohio

Flatbed trailer carrying forgings from Dean, Smith and Grace, Keighley, to Ohio in the United States, moving aboard ACL's *Atlantic Span* at Royal Seaforth Terminal, Liverpool. ACL provides a weekly ro-ro/container service between Liverpool and New York and Baltimore.

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

News of export services

If your company has recently introduced a new service for exporters – in, for example, the packing, forwarding, shipping, airfreighting, banking or translation fields – we would be glad to have details, plus a good black and white photograph where appropriate.

Items for inclusion in this feature should be addressed to the Editor, Trade and Industry, Eighth Floor, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1.

Advertisers who wish to be associated with this feature should contact Dudley Masters on 01-242 9478.

ANNOUNCING

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Tech-Transfair
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Holland
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Inquiries
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ECGD cover for overseas fairs

As a supplement to the ordinary insurance policy exporters have with Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), cover is available for goods exhibited at fairs overseas against the rather special risks involved.

The standard cover includes sales at overseas fairs
Sales made at overseas fairs are covered under the standard ECGD policy against eventualities of loss, such as the insolvency of the buyer or his default, or exchange difficulties preventing transfer of payment from the buyer's country.

Special cover
Under a special policy supplementary to an exporter's main policy, ECGD can cover also the risks of loss arising while the goods are being exhibited or are on their way to be exhibited.
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or war between any of the countries involved,
or the requisition or confiscation of the goods in these countries,
or any measure or decision in the country where the goods are exhibited which prevents their re-export to the UK.
For more information about this special cover, get in touch with the nearest regional office of ECGD.

ECGD's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2. There are regional offices in:

Central London 01-437 2292 **North London** 01-808 4570 **South London** 01-686 9921 **Belfast** Belfast 31743 **Birmingham** 021-233 1771 **Bristol** Bristol 299971 **Cambridge** Cambridge 68801 **Glasgow** 041-332 8707 **Leeds** Leeds 450631 **Manchester** 061-228 3621.

Overseas trade country data

Argentina

Import duty reductions. The Argentine Ministry of the Economy has published in the *Boletin Oficial*, 30 January, resolution 1634/78 of 28 December 1978 which sets out in detail the tariff reductions on imports over a five-year period.

Details of these reductions, which are phased to take place on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October of years 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, the final reduction taking place on 1 January 1984, are now available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Australia

Rotary cultivators. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 19 January, gave the dates of the public hearings on the question of long-term protection for the local production of certain engines not exceeding 7.46 kW, rotary cultivators and tractors with a power take-off of less than 15 kW.

Pending receipt of the final report the government has decided that bounty will be payable on production and sale of pedestrian-operated rotary cultivators having local content of not less than 60 per cent of total factory cost at a rate of A$40 per kW of engine power. Total bounty payments will be limited to A$60,000 per year.

Short-term assistance to other cultivators, tractors and engines is not considered to be necessary.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.
Ref: CRE 1059/78, CRE 1469/78

Textiles, clothing and footwear. The Industries Assistance Commission is in the process of writing its draft report on the long-term assistance needs of the textile, clothing and footwear industries but before it finalises the draft it is giving an opportunity to witnesses who gave evidence at earlier hearings to update original submissions, giving supporting reasons or proposals for changes to the quota system.

Submissions should be sent to the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, to arrive not later than 9 March.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.
Ref: CRE 673/77

Chemical products. The Australian Industries Assistance Commission has published a draft report of its inquiry into the question of the assistance needs of the chemical industry producing the following:

Beeswax and other insect waxes falling within item 15.15; colloidal precious metals, amalgams of precious metals, salts and other compounds of precious metals falling with item 28.49; distilled and conductivity water and water of similar purity falling within item 28.58.9; menthol falling within item 29.05.1; vanillin and ethylvanillin falling within item 29.11.1; butyraldehyde and other goods falling within item 29.11.2; methyl formate, ethylformate and other goods falling within item 29.14.4; dulcin falling within item 29.25.1; saccharin, salts of saccharin, chlorosaccharin and methylsaccharin falling within item 29.26.1; calcium cyclamate and sodium cyclamate falling within item 29.30.1; coumarin falling within item 29.35.3; pure water falling within item 30.03.7; essential oils and other goods falling within items 33.01, 33.02, 33.03, 33.04 or 33.05; lubricating preparations, artificial waxes, polishes and creams and other goods falling within items 34.03, 34.04, or 34.05.1; casein, gelatin, dexrin and other goods falling within items 35.01, 35.02, 35.03, 35.04, 35.05, 35.06.1 or 35.06.9; artificial graphite, prepared glazings, prepared mordants, pickling preparations for metal surfaces, fluxes, prepared culture media, preparations and charges for fire extinguishers and other goods falling within items 38.01, 38.12, 38.13, 38.16, 38.17, 38.19.1, 38.19.2, 38.19.31, 38.19.32, 38.19.39, 38.19.5 or 38.19.8; goods falling within item 38.19.9 in which the constituent that gives the goods their essential character is included in the preceding items.

The draft is being made available to give interested parties an opportunity to examine and comment on it before final recommendations are made to government.

A further public hearing will be held on 23 March in the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 59 Goulbourne Street, Sydney. Persons intending to give evidence at the public hearing should inform the commission at PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, as soon as possible.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.
Ref: CRE 395/77

Paper and paperboard. The Australian government has considered the Industries Assistance Commission report of its inquiry into the assistance needs of the paper and paperboard industry and the Minister for Industry and Commerce has announced that the commission's recommendations has been substantially accepted. As a consequence the industry will continue to be assisted by a duty of 20 per cent on the majority of its production and the level of bounty for uncoated paper will be A$70 per tonne and A$90 per tonne for coated paper – the bounty will be payable for eight years but the amount of bounty in any one year will be limited to A$2½ million. By-law admission for imports of paper of the type used in telephone directories is being removed. Detailed tariff changes will be published as soon as they are available.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.
Ref: CRE 1744/76

Consumer safety. Under the programme for improving the safety of products affecting the safety and welfare of children in Australia, the government has banned the supply of, and importation into Australia of a toy containing confectionery known as 'whistle bottle'. The 'whistle bottle' consists of a plastic bottle containing sherbet powder or other confectionery fitted with a separate top which can be used as a whistle.

The supply in, and importation into, Australia of drink dispensers containing an unacceptable level of zinc or other poisonous metal has also been prohibited. Such goods must not exceed the National Health and Medical Research Council's recommended level of metal contaminiation, which are zinc 5 mg/kg; mercury 0.03 mg/kg; copper 5 mg/kg; antinomy 0.15 mg/kg; arsenic 0.15 mg/kg; lead 0.2 mg/kg; any other metal 0.15 mg/kg.

These actions have been taken under the unsafe goods provisions of the Trade Practices Act and the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.
Ref: CRE 35184.

Brandy. Pending receipt and consideration by the Australian government of the Industries Assistance Commission report on the long-term assistance needs of the brandy producing industry, the temporary additional duty and tariff quota applying to imports of brandy is to be continued for six months beyond the present expiry date of 21 February.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.
Ref: CRE 1533/77.

Belize

Stamp duty. A 3 per cent *ad valorem* stamp duty has been imposed on all imports into Belize as from 10 May 1978. No further information is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312.

Colombia

Tariff amendments. Colombian decrees 2110 of September 1978 and 2622 of November 1978 have amended the import duty on items falling within tariff numbers ex 10.07, 23.07, ex 84.30, ex 84.45, ex 84.49, ex 85.01 and ex 85.11.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Dominica

Import licensing. The Dominica authorities have announced that a licence will be required

Country data continues after the supplement

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel. direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757. In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Mexico's Ahmsa furnace – built with British Steel Corporation expertise

Nationalised industries boost British exports

Public enterprise in Britain has begun to make an increasing contribution to UK exports. As Secretary of State for Trade John Smith explains, the nationalised industries' traditionally overwhelming preoccupation with the home market is gradually changing. And this trend will have a significant effect on the future pattern of UK trade.

Public enterprise in Britain is making an increasing, though still little recognised, contribution towards boosting UK exports. In the six years up to 1977-78 – a period that included the worst world recession since the 1930s – total overseas earnings of the nationalised industries quadrupled from £644 million to some £2.5 billion.

Even after allowing for the impact of inflation, an increase of this order, based partly on a physical expansion of public sector industry, clearly reflects a shift of emphasis in the traditional post-war role of the nationalised industries – a development with some intriguing implications for the future pattern of UK trade in general, and the increasing need for greater collaboration between public and private sectors in pursuit of multi-industry overseas contracts in particular.

Nowhere has this evolving role been better illustrated than by the current effort to achieve a massive expansion of UK trade with China. Five nationalised industries, with a range of partners from the private sector, are now in the forefront of an export drive set in motion by China's dramatic decision to reverse its policy of economic isolation and embark on a huge programme of industrial modernisation with the help of equipment and technology brought in from abroad. Both before and since the trade delegation to Peking last summer led by the then Secretary of State for Trade Edmund Dell, separate negotiations have continued with the Chinese on a number of potentially massive contracts involving British Aerospace, British Railways, British Steel Corporation, National Coal Board and British Shipbuilders.

In the case of British involvement in the modernisation and development of China's steel industry, the expansion of its mining industry, and the modernisation of its shipyard technology, successful negotiations could lead to multi-million pound orders for British steel plant, mining and marine equipment industries. A number of early contracts has already been won in these and other areas. And it is expected that

the latest British delegation to visit China, being led at the moment by Secretary of State for Industry Eric Varley, will lead to further progress towards clinching some of the major orders still under negotiation.

Among orders already won, close collaboration between British Shipbuilders, the marine equipment industries, and independent consultants A. and P. Appledore has opened the way for Britain to win the first of the contracts for modernising a Chinese shipyard – a vital breakthrough in what seems certain to become one of the biggest shipbuilding markets in the world. British Rail's consultancy subsidiary, Transmark, has also just won a £3 million contract to supervise the electrification of the Hong Kong stretch of the Kowloon to Canton railway running to the Chinese border. It is hoped that this could be a further step towards a contract to modernise the railway system running through mainland China itself.

Traditional role

Yet, mention exports and most people still automatically think of private industry and manufactured goods like engineering products, whisky and wool textiles. This is not particularly surprising. For fairly obvious historical reasons, Britain's nationalised industries are generally much less readily identified with exporting. With the exception of the airways and British Rail's shipping interests, the first industries to be taken into public ownership were utility industries concerned overwhelmingly with supplying the needs of the home market. (There was a revival in coal exports after the war but this came before the rapid rise in world oil consumption towards the end of the 1950s.)

With the principal exception of the 'invisibles' from air fares, until just over a decade ago exports from the public sector, remained relatively insignificant, both as a proportion of turnover, and as a proportion of total national exports.

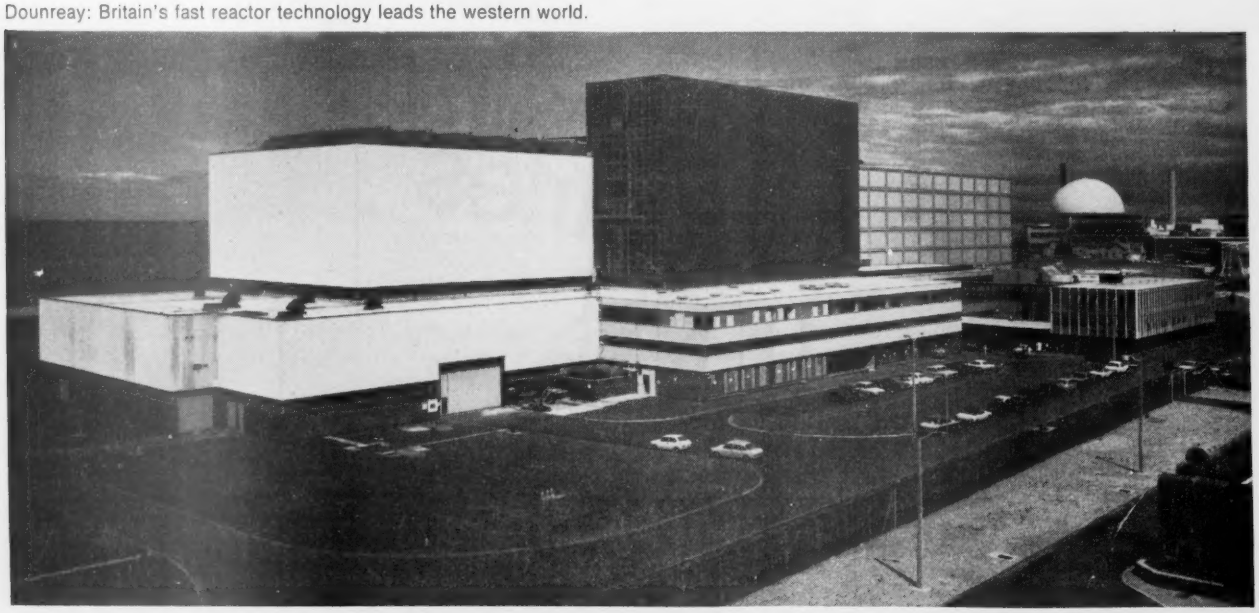
Changing pattern

But this pattern has begun to change. In 1967 the re-nationalisation of the steel industry, after its short earlier spell in public ownership between 1951 and 1953, signalled the first important long-term shift in the previously inherent imbalance between home and export sales of the publicly owned industries. Despite the steel industry's worldwide problems, British Steel Corporation is currently still this country's fifth biggest exporter. And this trend towards higher exports from the public enterprise sector has now become considerably more pronounced with the nationalisation, for the first time, of two major manufacturing export industries – shipbuilding and aerospace.

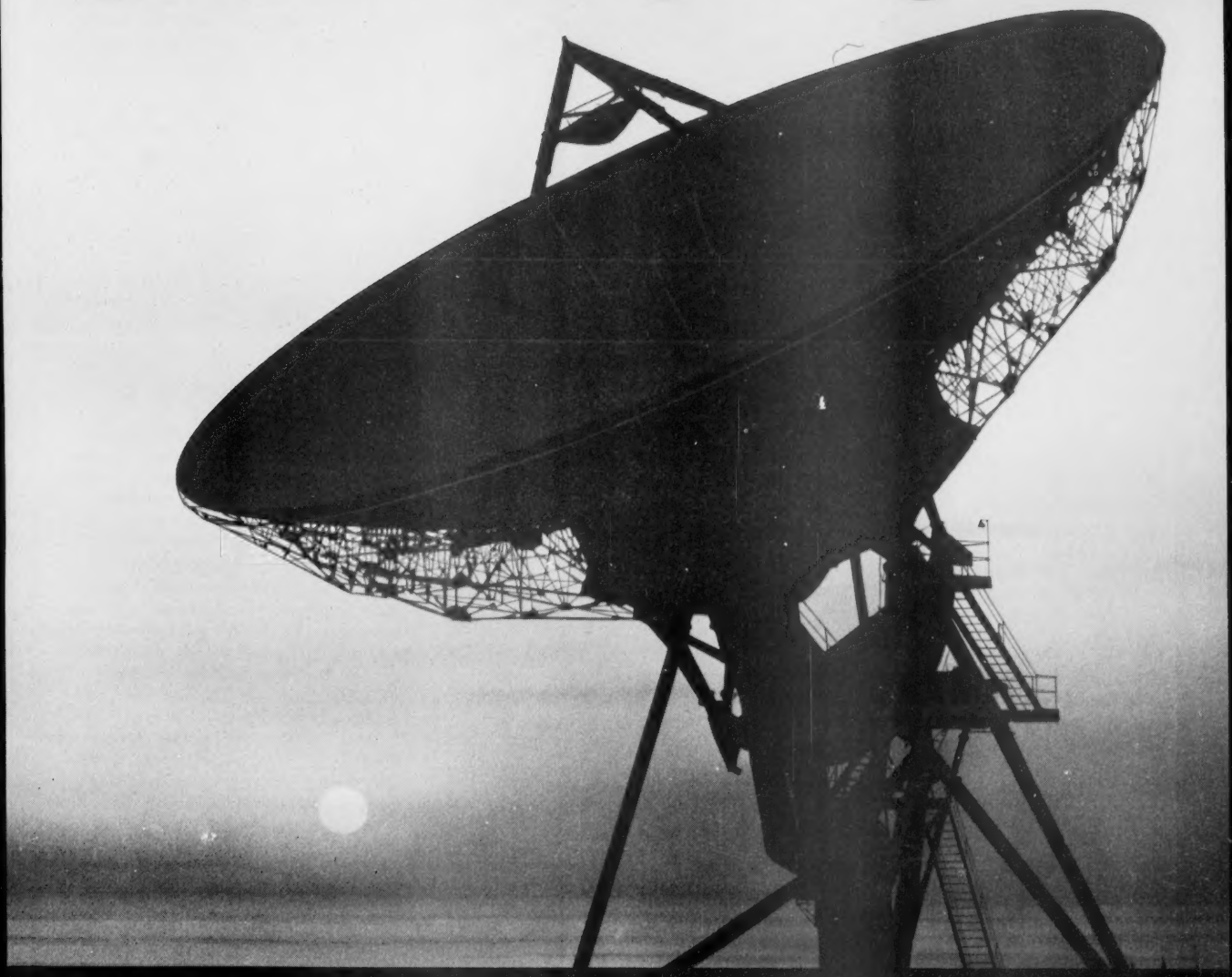
This new departure has automatically meant a further substantial addition – currently over £800 million – to the total visible 'hardware' exports from the nationalised industries. They have now jumped from a negligible level in national terms before the nationalisation of the steel industry to some £1,500 million for the financial year 1977-78. The great bulk of these earnings comes from steel, aerospace and shipbuilding in that order, topped up mainly by coal and coke exports and railway wagon sales, which were the nationalised industries' main visible exports before 1967.

Even at this significantly higher level,

Dounreay: Britain's fast reactor technology leads the western world.



Earth stations. Just a beginning for us.



For Cable & Wireless, providing an earth station is not an end in itself. We don't install the station and walk away, leaving you to your own devices. For us it's just a beginning, a means to an end, part of a total package, part of using our total telecommunications expertise and experience to provide you with a total telecommunications capability.

First, we plan, design and engineer the complete system: earth station, backhaul links into the terrestrial network, national and international telephone and telex circuits.

Then we select the best available earth station for the particular application – engineered to meet your individual needs.

We will install, operate, manage and maintain the system and provide training for your technicians, engineers, managers and operators.

Cable & Wireless and its associate companies operate more earth stations in the INTELSAT system than any other single operator, and are the third largest users. We have already been involved in the design or construction of over thirty earth stations – an unrivalled wealth of skill and knowledge to add to over a century of expertise and experience in world-wide telecommunications.

Cable & Wireless

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Cable & Wireless Ltd. Mercury House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RX Telephone: 01-242 4433 Telex: 23181

One of Cyprus Airways' One-Eleven 500 airliners.

these exports still represent only a fairly small part (under 5 per cent) of total visible exports for the last year – the bulk of them manufactures. However, this proportion would be very radically increased if exports from industries that are not fully nationalised but in which the state has a major stake were also taken into account. For example: British Petroleum – Britain's top exporter last year; BL Ltd – Britain's fourth biggest exporter; Rolls-Royce, ICL and the other companies in the National Enterprise Board's portfolio which are partially state-owned companies rather than fully state-owned industries; and the recently created British National Oil Corporation which, through its own equity stakes and by virtue of participation agreements, should have access to around 700 000 barrels of oil a day in the early 1980s.

Equally, while a substantial proportion of last year's jump in nationalised industries' exports can be explained simply in terms of an accountancy change – a one-off 'transfer' of overseas earnings by the shipbuilding and aerospace industries from the private to the public sector account – this by no means explains the steady, longer-term rate of export growth from public enterprise as a whole.

This earth station in Belize is one of four of its kind brought into operation by Cable and Wireless last year. The others are in The Gambia, Bermuda and Tonga. Altogether, the group has installed 32 earth stations.

Cromer report

This growth was undoubtedly influenced by Lord Cromer's 1968 report on 'Export business from capital projects overseas', which stressed the major role played by the public sector in the export activities of other countries. The report suggested that nationalised industries in the UK should take further steps to increase what it acknowledged was an already substantial level of participation in support of capital projects abroad. These included minimising, as far as possible, violent fluctuations in the volume of domestic ordering; aiming at greater standardisation of design; aligning domestic specifications as closely as possible with export requirements; and playing a more direct role in the actual selling and carrying out of projects.

Following the lead given by Cromer, the British Overseas Trade Board's Overseas Projects Group Advisory Panel (now more simply the Overseas Project Board) worked closely with the National Economic Development Council and the nationalised industries themselves on preparing a new report that concentrated in more detail on the actual and potential role of the nationalised industries in capital project opportunities overseas. The resulting recommendations on the means by which closer collaboration could be achieved between the state-owned industries and their suppliers has, I believe, led to real progress – and this work is still continuing through the activities of both the Overseas Projects Board and the Nationalised Industries Overseas Group (Niog).

Certainly these efforts have made the nationalised industries more conscious than ever of the need to adopt equipment specifications that enable their suppliers to sell the same equipment abroad. A number of public sector industries, for example, open their establishments to potential overseas buyers so that they can see UK-manufactured equipment under operating conditions. The NCB has a particularly good record in this field, and is prepared to test suppliers' equipment aimed at overseas markets even in cases where the equipment concerned is not required by the NCB.

Nationalised Industries Overseas Group

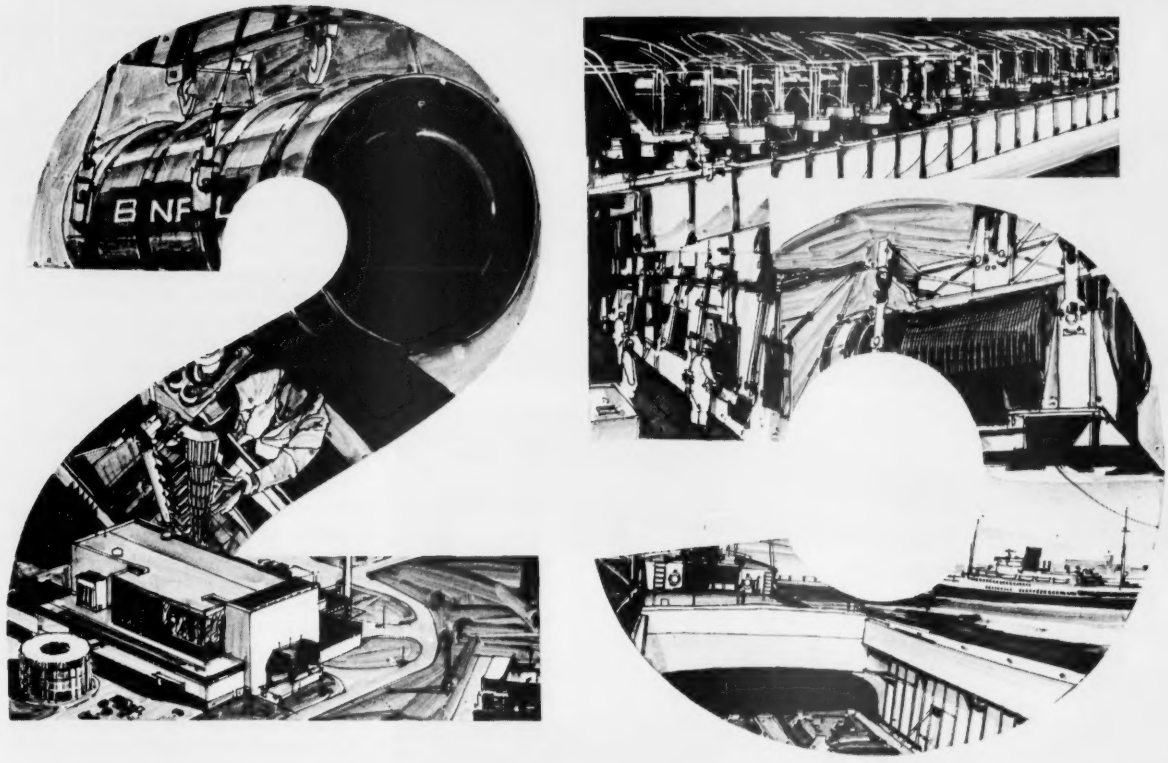
Well before the changes of 1977 had widened the base of publicly owned industry, a new emphasis on increasing exports of both products and know-how was already established among the nationalised industries. This was matched by a growing recognition of the advantages of public and private sector industries linking together into consortia in pursuit of major contracts abroad.

The importance of this trend received further formal recognition and a new impetus with the formation, in March 1976, of the Nationalised Industries Overseas Group (Niog) to promote closer collaboration on exports between the nationalised industries themselves; between them and their customers; between them and their suppliers of plant and equipment and private sector consultancy services; and finally between them and similar enterprises in other countries, especially within the European community. The government is represented on Niog – known abroad as the British Nationalised Industries Overseas Services – through the Department of Trade by the head of the Overseas Projects Group.

Some industries link naturally with one another. The development of a steel complex requires coal, railways, electricity and often a harbour. A modern transportation system for a developing country needs railways, road freight and passenger services, airports and ports and telecommunications.

To try to get in on the front line of these

More than



25 years' experience

In 25 years British Nuclear Fuels Limited have become experts in every process of the nuclear fuel cycle. They are established, world wide, as suppliers of fuels and fuel services as well as associated design and engineering facilities.

The service includes extraction and refinement of uranium, UF6 conversion and, through the international associated companies Urenco Ltd and Centec GmbH, the development and manufacture of centrifuge plant and supply and marketing of uranium enrichment.

BNFL's unique experience in the fields of Reprocessing and Irradiated Fuel Transport is incorporated internationally in two further companies, United Reprocessors GmbH and Nuclear Transport Limited.

Oxide and pellet production and fuel element design, development and fabrication are also part of the comprehensive BNFL service.

Besides nuclear fuels BNFL manufactures and supplies a range of radioactive substances, fluorine chemicals, graphite components, and REFEL self-bonded silicon carbide.

BNFL

–at the heart of nuclear power

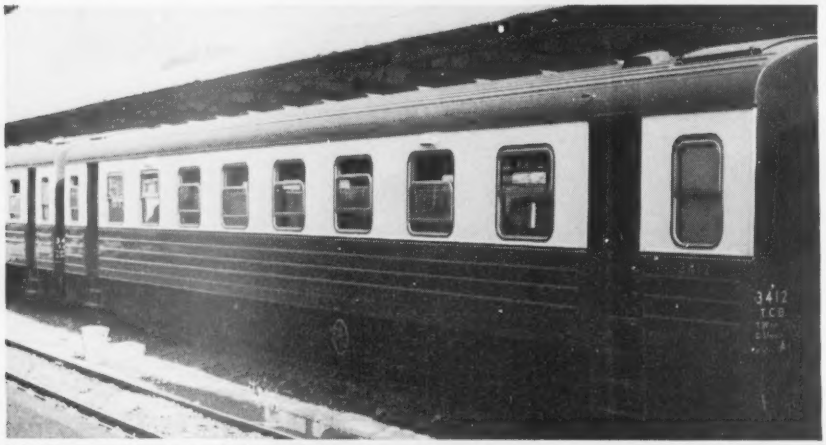
British Nuclear Fuels Limited
Risley, Warrington,
England. WA3 6AS

BNF 10

multi-industry projects, an organisational approach has been agreed within Niog, with the relevant member industry taking the lead. (Projects are often in countries which actively prefer some state industry involvement in tenders from overseas as a form of security.) At the same time, specific opportunities for collaboration are kept under continuous review. A world survey of multi-industry 'turnkey' projects known or likely to be implemented during the next five years, and judged suitable for British-led bids, is being carried out through overseas posts. In these ways, liaison with government departments and the private sector has been considerably further strengthened over the last three years.

Collaboration has also grown in other new areas within public sector industry: for example three Niog members (British Coal International, British Gas and the British Steel Corporation) participated in a joint stand at the exhibition 'Energy 78' at Sao Paulo, Brazil, early in 1978, initiating a selective programme for collaboration in future international exhibitions. Last November, 12 Niog members were jointly represented at the British Industrial Exhibition in Mexico.

That is an indication of the formidable resources that are now brought together through Niog. In their own fields, Britain's publicly owned industries represent some of the largest enterprises in the world. They now have access to resources of advanced technology, practical operating experience, and a range of special skills in almost every field of energy, transport and communications, as well as heavy basic industries like steel, shipbuilding and aircraft construction. And despite the world recession and its aftermath, these skills and technologies are in demand in rapidly growing resource-rich countries in the Middle East, the Far East and Latin America, where developing states are looking for help in creating precisely the kind of basic industries and infrastructure of which the UK nationalised industries have most experience.



BR, Derby, built coaches for Kenya Railways. Picture: Peter J. Howard

Up-to-date mining techniques exported worldwide.

Consultancies

With the help of UK technology and experience, railways are being planned, post and telecommunications systems installed, power supplies developed, and coal fields opened up across the world. Despite the prolonged world recession in the steel industry, works are still being built, expanded and modernised in developing countries, based on local raw materials and energy. And again the kind of help Britain can provide is in demand.

In the financial year 1977-78, some 140 consultancy projects of this kind worth £133 million were in hand, compared with projects worth £80 million a year earlier. And this rapid expansion complements the highly successful record of Britain's established private sector consultancy firms in civil engineering and other areas, now represented by the British Consultants Bureau (see box, page 8).

In a move that typifies the growing need for close public and private sector involvement in pursuit of major contracts abroad, Niog joined the British Consultants Bureau in 1978 to improve co-operation and, where possible, link the efforts of public and private sector interests in the consultancy field. Niog has also now established close links with the Export Group for the Constructional Industries (EGCI).

And this perhaps illustrates the most important point of all about the public sector industries' commitment to increasing national export levels. The overseas earnings of many of the nationalised industries have certainly been growing fast – British Rail's consultancy company Transmark, and British Steel's Overseas Services both won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1978. And major post-nationalisation successes by British Aerospace alone include the £1 billion contract being finalised to establish facilities to supply the Anglo-French Jaguar to India; the £200 million order for the construction of 80 BAC 1-11 airliners under licence to Romania; and the £150 million order for 50 Hawk trainer jets from Finland. But, in many ways, all these earnings still represent only the tip of a very substantial financial iceberg for Britain.

This is because nationalised industries' consultancy assignments and overseas operations can, as in China, help to open up massive export opportunities for private sector companies to supply steel plant, railway, mining or power generation equipment, sometimes for huge capital projects, or to join in with the provision of additional engineering or consultancy services. In this way, employment can be increased and benefits felt throughout the whole UK economy.

Indeed, the public and private industrial sectors have collaborated in negotiations with China in a number of areas from the beginning, as in the joint delegation from BSC-Davy International-GEC last year. This pattern is likely to grow in the future: talks are continuing, for example on the supply of

power plant for China's extensive power station programme, with missions from Babcock and Wilcox, GEC and Northern Engineering Industries following up a three-week visit by a delegation from the Electricity Council at the end of last year.

In these ways, then, the nationalised industries have effectively co-ordinated their efforts, both with one another and with the private sector, to maximise the overseas earnings potential of their technological skills. The extensive consultancy work now being undertaken by the nationalised industries throughout the world not only generates earnings in itself but, even more crucially, opens up the way to substantial sales of hardware, and to major construction and operating contracts. Both public and private sector enterprises have their part to play in all of this.

The following pages give a range of examples of the export orders already won by individual nationalised industries and, in many cases, the further major opportunities these have created for UK private industry.

An SD14 for the Greek Empros Lines. British Shipbuilders' Austin and Pickersgill has received export orders for 70 of this type of cargo vessel. Photo: Lichfield

Individual export achievements

British Steel Corporation
BSC's subsidiary, British Steel Corporation (Overseas Services), has increased its export earnings from the provision of consultancy and project management services fifteen-fold over the last five years to a current annual level of £12 million. The company received the Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1977 and 1978.

Engineering, technical and other project-related services are currently being provided for new integrated steelworks in, Libya and Venezuela. These assignments follow a similar involvement in a major new steelworks in Mexico, now in successful operation, for which British plantmakers were able to win a larger share of the orders offered under international tender than those of any other country.

Other major projects include a four-year contract to evaluate the possibility of processing iron ore from a huge deposit in a remote part of Saudi Arabia. And there are now exciting prospects in China where, in addition to a number of large modernisation and expansion schemes for existing works,

two massive new integrated steelworks are planned at a cost of some £5 billion each.

The engineering and hardware import orders for the works in Hopei province alone are likely to be in excess of £2 billion. In pursuit of these opportunities, BSC and Davy International plan to open permanent offices in Peking and have signed a contract with the Chinese government to carry out an engineering study for the modernisation and development of the Shoutu iron and steel plant in Peking. In addition, BSC's direct exports of steel last year amounted to more than £650 million.

Post Office
Last year the Post Office announced a £4 million contract, on its telecommunications side, for a consultancy project in Libya. This was the latest of a number of consultancy contracts – with a total value of nearly £17

million – awarded to the Post Office over the last two years by Libyan telecommunications interests.

The Post Office has also achieved notable export successes with Prestel – its viewdata system that links the telephone to the tv set, enabling users to call up advice and information stored on a computer for display on their tv screens. The potential of this breakthrough is obvious, creating outstanding opportunities for the UK electronics industry and tv manufacturers. Viewdata technology has been demonstrated both in the American White House and Moscow; it has already been sold to West Germany and the Netherlands, and agreement in principle reached with Hong Kong.

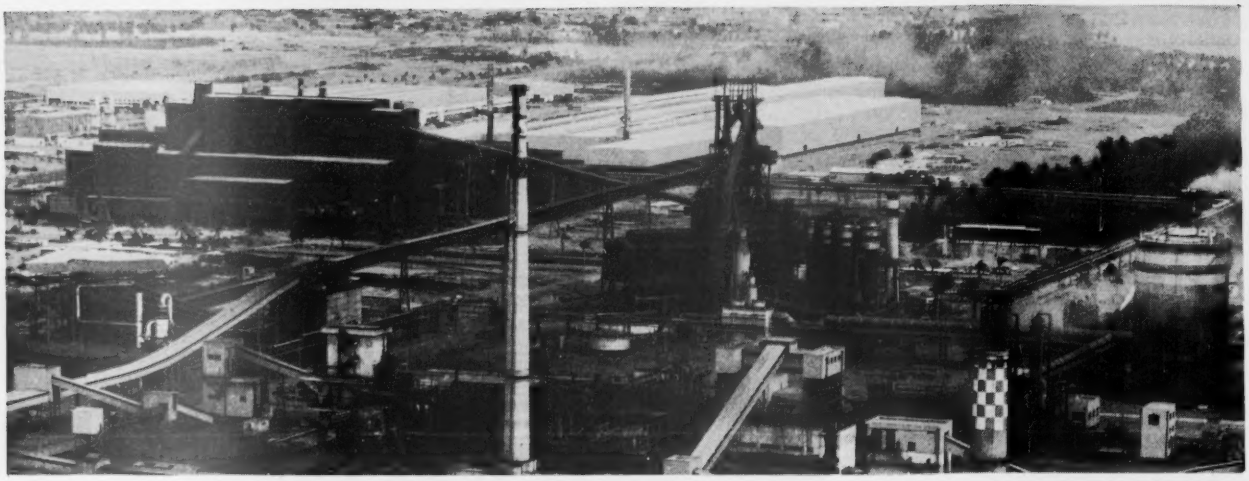
Agreement has also been reached with Insac Data Systems, the firm set up by the National Enterprise Board to market British computing systems and software overseas, to launch a viewdata service from a computer in the United States next year. Worldwide interest in the system remains intense and a number of other countries is negotiating with the Post Office.

The Post Office's postal consultancy service, too, won its biggest contract so far last year – to design a new postal complex in Riyadh and a postal store to serve the whole of Saudi Arabia – and four British companies have been brought in to help carry out the work. The contract has confirmed the Post Office's position as a world leader in postal consultancy: currently it is working on projects worth about £2 million in Hong Kong, Iran, Barbados, Colombia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and Malaysia.

British Railways
Transmark, British Rail's consultancy subsidiary, has increased its export earnings twenty-fold between 1973 and 1978, to a current annual total of over £4 million. Transmark – which won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1978 – makes the

expertise of British Railways available to governments and railway administrations throughout the world.

A wide variety of projects has been undertaken in 58 countries and states representing every continent and ranging



Integrated steel works of Sicartsa at Lazaro Cardenas, Mexico. BSC Overseas Services provided technical advisory services throughout this project, and is continuing to provide advisory services for the initial operation of the works.

from short visits by a single railway specialist to major studies covering all railway disciplines. In 1978 alone, 69 projects were being undertaken in some 30 countries. These included a £7 million contract with the Iranian State Railways for modernisation of over 600 miles of railway in Iran; an assessment, on behalf of the Asian Development Bank, covering the workshops and operating functions of Bangladesh Railways; work on paved concrete track for the Public Transport Commission of New South Wales; and various studies for the United States Federal Railroad Administration, mainly in connection with the modernisation of the Boston-Washington main line.

The joint export sales company of British Rail Engineering Ltd (Brel) and Metro-Cammell, BRE-Metro, was established in 1970. While Brel's principal role has continued to be the manufacture and repair of British Rail locomotives and rolling stock, since the formation of the joint company there has been a steady rise in the overseas sales of rolling stock.

During its first five years, BRE-Metro obtained export orders to the value of £14 million. By early 1977, the £50 million mark had been reached and by August last year, the total order intake figure for exports was approaching £100 million. Principal contracts are for freight wagons and passenger coaches for East Africa and the Far East, but Brel also builds containers, bogies, brake equipment, spares and general engineering items for countries all over the world.

National Coal Board

The National Coal Board, which is bigger than the combined coal industries of the rest of the entire European community, had exports – mainly of coal and coke – valued at £72 million in 1977-78 compared with £58 million the previous year.

NCB

The 1977 Coal Industry Act gave the board extended powers to operate outside Great Britain and was followed by the setting up of a new organisation, British Coal International (BCI), to promote and co-ordinate activities overseas by interests connected with the British coal-mining industry.

Consultancy services earned approximately £1.5 million in 1977-78.

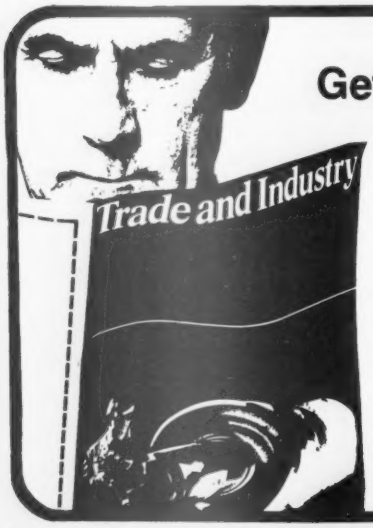
British Consultants Bureau

An article about the British Consultants Bureau will be published in *Trade and Industry* shortly. The British Consultants Bureau is the body which provides an export orientated organisation for consultancy professions. It currently represents 247 members including 19 public sector organisations.

Substantial further prospects are being followed up. The mining machinery and coal preparation plant manufacturers, through their trade associations, are members of BCI and their exports rose from £68 million in 1976-77 to £88 million in 1977-78. These are expected to exceed £100 million in 1978-79. In addition, the National Coal Board has a stake, with other European and Australian interests, in the exploration of a coal rich area of Queensland, Australia. The interests involved have an excellent chance of obtaining the contract for designing and developing the new mine, with opportunities for hardware and construction contracts.

In China, British Coal International is pursuing with the Chinese the possibility of developing new areas of coal. This could ultimately lead to contracts for consultancy, construction and equipment worth several hundred million pounds.

Altogether, British Coal International,



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through its associated groups, is currently providing consultancy and other services to 35 countries and exporting mining machinery to a 100 countries.

British Aerospace

A significant new force in aerospace – the largest in the western world outside the United States – the new corporation was the UK's sixth biggest exporter last year. Growth in overseas sales has been rapid – from £371 million, or 50 per cent of total sales by the present subsidiaries in 1976 – to record exports of £536 million, or 62 per cent of total sales in 1977 – the first year of nationalisation. The value of orders received had also risen to a healthy £2.3 billion by the end of 1977, and has increased further since.

Major expected or definite orders since nationalisation include the £200 million order from Romania for the purchase of three complete 1-11 airliners and the manufacture under licence of further 1-11 airliners, the

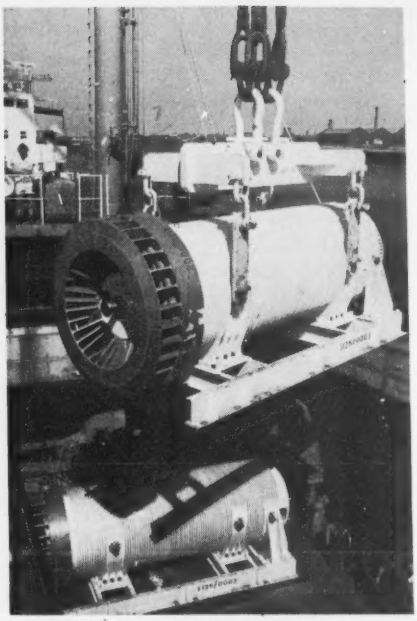
deal embracing around 80 aircraft over the next 15 years; the £150 million order from Finland for 50 Hawk trainer jets; the £25 million order from Indonesia for eight Hawks; the extension of a defence contract with Saudi Arabia worth more than £500 million; the recent £48 million order for a further 31 sets of A300 Airbus wings from Airbus Industrie (an addition to the £200 million worth of work already carried out for Airbus Industrie); and a multi-million pound contract currently being finalised to supply the Anglo-French Jaguar to India.

British Shipbuilders

The UK's newest nationalised industry came into existence in unpromising circumstances, with an unprecedented slump in world shipbuilding. Since vesting day in July 1977, however, the export expertise of the individual firms concerned has been brought together by British Shipbuilders into a new worldwide marketing drive which has concentrated on previously neglected areas. One of the first fruits of this approach was the £115 million contract to build 24 ships for Poland.

In its first year of nationalisation, British Shipbuilders completed export work worth over £285 million – mainly for merchant and naval construction and, to a lesser extent, shiprepairing, marine engine building, and general engineering. At the end of the first year, the total merchant order book stood at 118 ships of 1.2 million tons gross, and half of these orders – 53 ships of over 600 000 tons gross and worth £352 million – were for export.

British Shipbuilders are also pushing into the offshore market both in the North Sea and around the world, and have established a special unit to offer a complete service to offshore operators. The corporation, whose



Unloading flasks containing irradiated oxide fuel elements at Barrow docks en route from Japan to the reprocessing plant at the Windscale works, in Cumbria, of British Nuclear Fuels.

yards are experienced in building modules, submersibles and drilling vessels, believes there will be major and growing opportunities in the area, and is now well equipped to take advantage of this.

British Airways

BA Management Services has provided consultancy in computer software and communications aids to over 50 of the world's major airlines, as well as a number of other companies in the travel industry for fees totalling in excess of £15 million. A subsidiary company, IAL, also earned £57 million in 1977, increasing its sales by nearly a third by equipping and managing airports

Prestel, the Post Office's pace-setting viewdata system which enables people to call up boundless information over the phone and display it on their tv sets.

abroad and training staff in more than 50 countries, with 90 per cent of this revenue being earned overseas. On top of this, British Airways Engine Overhaul earned a further £14 million from contracts with other operators in 1977-78.

And this account of growing export activity

British airways

can be extended to other public sector industries, even those with little or no direct export capacity.

Electricity Council

The council's subsidiary, British Electricity International (BEI), was established in April 1976 and operates as the focal point for a comprehensive overseas consultancy service provided by the electricity supply industry. The volume of overseas work has steadily increased, particularly in the last 12 months, and BEI is currently operating in some 35 countries, with around 200 people working on secondment overseas in addition to those employed in the UK. The company's turnover last year was £5.5 million, an increase of nearly 60 per cent over 1976-77. Recent contracts include a comprehensive design, construction and commissioning service for a major power station in Hong Kong; managing the entire supply service in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; design services for a gas turbine power station in Algeria; sales of training simulators in India, New Zealand and Australia; and a major training assignment in Iran.

British Gas Corporation

The corporation's international consultancy service is engaged on varied projects in such countries as Thailand, Algeria, Australia and Canada. In the Republic of Ireland, British Gas acted as main consultant to the Irish Gas Board for the pipeline system transmitting gas from the natural gas field in Irish Republic waters. In the United States, Japan, and elsewhere, numerous gas making plants have been constructed using British Gas technology: the installed capacity of these plants is greater than the entire capacity of the town gas industry in Britain at its peak.

British Airports Authority

In April 1978, a new company, British Airports International (BAI), was formed by British Airports Authority, the public body

British Airports

responsible for Britain's major international airports in partnership with IAL. The joint company offers a wide range of services in the overseas airport consultancy field. These range from airport planning advice, to total airport master planning, including detailed

engineering design. A number of contracts has been won in the Middle East ranging from forecasting and master planning to management services. The consultancy services of BAI are offered both direct to aviation authorities and in support of British consultants on overseas projects requiring airport expertise.

Civil Aviation Authority
The whole range of the authority's expertise, including airport economic and operational planning; all aspects of air traffic control and related telecommunications system planning, engineering, maintenance and operation; and aviation safety, including

training courses in a wide variety of aviation subjects, is available to assist the development of UK overseas consultancy services.

National Freight Corporation
The corporation (NFC) has been active in consultancy in Iran, and NFC (International) has been principal consultant in several major projects there including the biggest cold storage and warehousing complex of its type in the Middle East. Other projects include massive freight terminals costing over £100 million at four southern Iranian ports and 10 000 tons of cold storage and 20 000 m² of warehousing near the gulf port of Khorramshahr.

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority
UKAEA has a long-established capability for consultancy, training and contract development work in support of nuclear power programmes throughout the world. Confidential investigations of interest to utilities, vendors, R&D and government organisations, covering all aspects of nuclear power research and development, are undertaken for clients using sophisticated facilities and highly skilled scientific and engineering staff. Foreign currency earnings have more than trebled over the last five years from £2.2 million to £7.3 million.

The Radiochemical Centre (TRC), a totally owned subsidiary of UKAEA engaged in the development, manufacture and sale of isotopes for use in industry, medicine and research, also has an impressive trading record. Between 1974 and 1978 sales overseas have risen from £6 million to over £27 million.

British Nuclear Fuels
British Nuclear Fuels has established overseas business which covers the conversion and enrichment of uranium; manufacture and supply of uranium and plutonium-based fuels and provision of related fuel cycle services for nuclear power stations; and re-processing of nuclear fuel after use. The value of its exports has increased from £6 million in 1972-73 to over £23 million in 1977-78.

Cable and Wireless
The state-owned telecommunications contractor Cable and Wireless (C&W), while not a nationalised industry in the normal sense, joined Niog in the summer of 1978

bringing with it an outstanding record of export achievement based on the kind of fast-moving technology which has made possible big productivity gains. During the last five years, the group has increased its taxable profit more than sixfold from £9.5 million in 1973 to £58.2 million in 1977 – almost all of this coming from the provision of external and internal telecommunications services to more than 30 overseas governments.

Last year C&W won a record £200 million-plus contract to supply and install a complete telecommunications system for the Saudi Arabian National Guard, which could open up huge opportunities for UK civil engineering sub-contractors. Currently the group is negotiating a further series of large contracts in the Middle East.

NUCLEAR SERVICES WORLDWIDE

The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority is one of the world's leading nuclear research and development organisations.

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British airways

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Sir Frank Price, Chairman, British Waterways Board, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, London NW1 7JY, tel. 01-262 6711, telex 263605

Lord Shepherd, Chairman, National Bus Company, 25 New Street Square, London EC4, tel. 01-583 9177, telex 27442

D. J. Kinnersley, Senior Economic Adviser, National Water Council, 1 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BT, tel. 01-222 8111

T. W. Jeffries, Commercial Director, Remploy Limited, 415 Edgware Road, London NU2 6LR, tel. 01-452 8020

C. I. Meek, Chairman, White Fish Authority, 10 Young Street, Edinburgh 2, tel. 031-225 2515, telex 727225

H. P. Taylor, British Aerospace, Brooklands Road, Surrey, KT 05J, tel. 97-44522, telex 27111

A. Mass, Cable and Wireless Ltd, Mercury House, Theobalds Road, London WC1, tel. 01-242 4433, telex 23181

to import the following goods from all countries irrespective of origin:

Tariff no.	Description of goods
15.01	Lard, other pig fat and poultry rendered or solvent-extracted
15.13	Margarine, imitation and other prepared edible fats 10 Margarine animal, vegetable or mixed 20 Shortening, lard substitute

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312.

Ghana

Import plan 1979. The following table shows a breakdown of the allocations of import licence value for 1979:

	C million
Sector	
Export	250.00
Agriculture	155.00
Basic consumer goods domestic production (360.00) direct imports (115.00)	475.00
Transportation	508.00
Other industry	258.00
Health	152.00
Construction	315.00
Education and research	60.00
Trade and tourism	97.00
Others	162.60
Total	2 432.60
Export sector	
Cocoa	90.00
Mining	75.00
Timber	75.00
Other	10.00
Total	250.00
Agriculture	
Inputs and spare parts	65.00
Spare parts for machinery and equipment (10.00) Chemicals other than fertilisers (15.00) Drugs and vaccines (10.00) Feed ingredients (15.00) Breeding stock and planting materials (15.00)	
Implements, machinery and equipment	44.00
Marine engines, equipment and spare parts (18.00) Land clearing and harvesting machinery (15.00) Other implements and tools (11.00)	
Commercial operations	35.00
Farming enterprises (20.00) Fishing enterprises (15.00)	
Domestic production of agricultural inputs	11.00
Total	155.00
Basic consumer goods	
Inputs for domestic production	360.00
Textiles (100.00) Breweries (30.00) Tobacco (50.00) Soap (35.00) Flour (50.00) Milk (30.00) Canned fish (15.00) Vegetable oils (8.00) Meat products (10.00) Non-alcoholic beverages (13.00) Toilet rolls (15.00) Matches and candles (4.00)	
Direct imports	115.00
Sugar (55.00) Canned fish (25.00) Meat (25.00) Others (10.00)	
Total	475.00
Transportation	
Petroleum and petroleum products	310.00
Spare parts (excluding C2 million for Ministry of Agriculture)	71.00
Tyres and batteries	28.00
Railways and ports	20.00
Bulk haulage and mass transit	47.00
Local assembly of cars (excluding bulk allocation for public sector vehicles)	32.00
Total	508.00
Health	
Pharmaceuticals direct importation (60.00) domestic production (58.00)	
Equipment (including ambulances and spare parts)	34.00
Total	152.00
Construction	
Bitumen	20.00
Specified projects and contractors (mainly spare parts)	57.00
Importing houses and plant pools	50.00
Construction and building materials	144.00
Other construction	44.00
Total	315.00
Other industry	
Packaging	20.00
Publishing	15.00
Other rubber and leather	14.00
Other food processing	14.00
Household wares	15.00
Other	30.00
Total	108.00

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064.

Israel

Import duty amendments. The Israeli authorities have issued amendments to the amount of duty payable on a wide range of goods. Many items within the headings covered by the CCCN numbers 05.01 to 99.02 inclusive are affected.

British exporters should address any inquiries, stating both the CCCN number and a description of the goods, to OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Ivory Coast

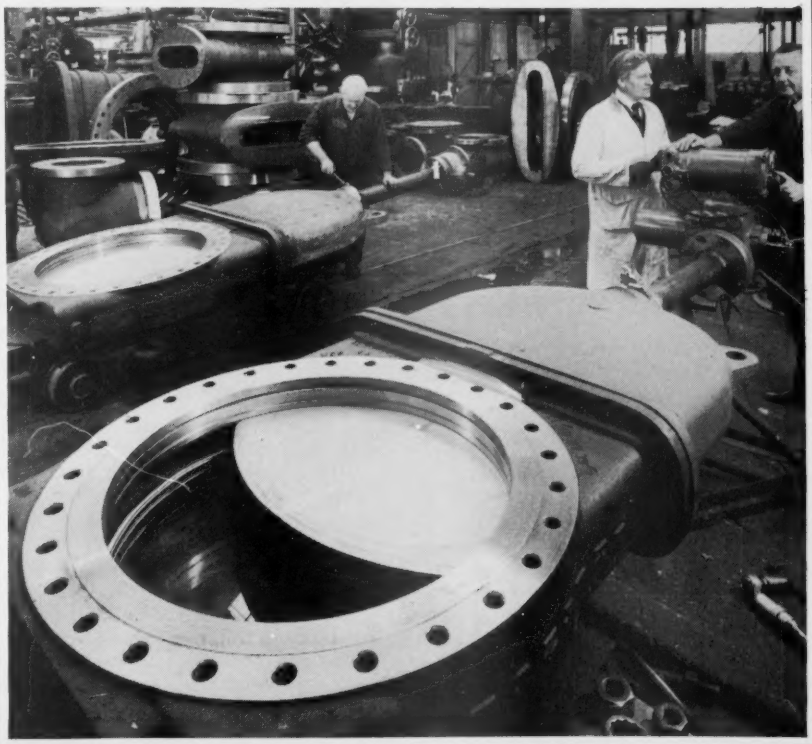
Tariff changes. In order 79-10 of 5 January, the government of the Ivory Coast announced extensive tariff changes, which took effect on 1 January 1979. The following customs tariff chapter headings are affected:

03.02; 05.09; 07.01; 08.02; 10.06; 11.02, 11.04; 12.01; 14.05; 15.07, 15.11, 15.13, 15.15 and 15.17; 16.02 and 16.04; 17.01, 17.02, 17.03 and 17.04; 18.06; 19.02 and 19.07; 20.06 and 20.07; 21.02, 21.04, 21.05 and 21.07; 22.10; 24.02; 25.20, 25.23 and 25.32; 26.01; 27.04 and 27.16; 28.08, 28.31 and 28.38; 29.14; 30.01 and 30.05; 32.09; 33.01 and 33.06; 36.04 and 36.08; 38.03; 39.07; 40.13 and 40.14; 41.02, 41.03, 41.04, 41.05 and 41.08; 44.09, 44.11, 44.21, 44.23 and 44.28; 46.02; 47.01; 48.01; 48.07, 48.15, 48.16, 48.18, 48.19 and 48.21; 50.09; 51.01, 51.02 and 51.04; 55.01, 55.04 and 55.09; 56.01, 56.02, 56.04 and 56.05; 57.07 and 57.11; 58.01, 58.02 and 58.04; 59.05 and 59.14; 60.03 and 60.05; 62.02 and 62.05; 65.05; 67.01; 68.04; 71.11, 71.12 and 71.16; 73.15, 73.20, 73.31, 73.32, 73.36, 73.38 and 73.40; 74.19; 76.16; 82.09; 83.15; 84.05, 84.14, 84.17, 84.51 and 84.52; 85.08, 85.11, 85.14, 85.15 and 85.21; 87.14; 89.01; 90.07 and 90.13; 92.11 and 92.12; 94.01 and 94.03; 95.05 and 95.08; 96.01; 97.02, 97.03 and 97.06; 98.12

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472.

Gate valves for oil industry

Slim-line wafer gate valves for work in the crude oil storage facility at Sullom Voe, Europe's largest oil terminal, under construction at the Wigan works of Triangle International similar to those manufactured for the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline project. The company will be exhibiting this year in Bahrain, Peking and Houston.



Kuwait

Import duty. A ministerial internal directive issued by Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry announced the cabinet's approval for the cancellation of the 15 per cent import duty depending upon the availability of similar goods produced by local industry. The ministry will also restrict imports of goods which can be provided by local industry to the extent of 75 per cent of local requirements

Agreements between government departments and any contractor will stipulate that the import of machinery by the contractor for producing building materials is prohibited.

Decisions on reduction of duty and import restrictions will be taken by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the merits of each case.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 475/7062.

Liberia

Multiple entry visas. Businessmen travelling to Liberia will wish to be aware that there now exists between the United Kingdom and Liberia a formal reciprocal agreement over the issue of multiple entry visas.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064.

Mexico

Tariff amendments. Decrees published in Mexico's *Diario Oficial*, 26 December 1978 and 5 January 1979, have made extensive changes to the import duties and to the wording of tariff sub-headings.

The main chapters affected are as follows:

01, 02, 03, 05, 08, 12, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 62, 63, 65, 67, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 90, 92, 98

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

St Kitts-Nevis

Consumption tax. The St Kitts-Nevis authorities have announced a reduction in the rate of consumption tax for gasolene (petrol) from 36 cents per gallon to 27 cents per gallon.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312.

St Lucia

Consumption tax. The St Lucia authorities have announced that as from 20 December 1978 there will be a further change in the rates of consumption tax payable on the following items:

Tariff no./Description of goods	Rate of tax Cents per gallon
27.10.23	
Motor spirits (gasolene and other light oils for similar uses) including gasolene blending agents	52.80
27.10.29	
Other motor spirits	52.80
27.10.31	
Illuminating kerosene	4.55
27.10.40	
Gas oils, diesel oil	40.05

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Saudi Arabia

Import duty changes. Following a recent meeting of the council of ministers import duties on the following Customs Co-operation Council nomenclature tariff numbers have been increased (previous rates shown in parentheses):

Per cent

CCCN no./Description of goods	Import duty
ex 19.07	
Ships biscuits	10 (3)
19.08(1)	
Biscuits	10 (3)
22.01	
Mineral water	20 (3)
ex 62.04	
Tents	10 (3)
76.02	
Extruded aluminium bars and rods	20 (exempt)
Angles and special shapes	20 (exempt)
ex 87.14	
Wheelbarrows	20 (3) with a minimum of SR15 per wheelbarrow

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7072/420.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list 6/79, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 16 February, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

Fabrics of sheep's or lamb's wool or fine animal hair, woven from worsted yarns (excluding fabrics with woven stripes, of a kind commonly used for blazers), of an fob price per m^2 not exceeding 210c, classifiable under tariff subheading 53.11.10.40, from 25 per cent ad valorem or 950c per kg less 75 per cent *ad valorem* to 25 per cent *ad valorem* or 1150c per kg less 75 per cent *ad valorem*.

This application supercedes part 'C' of application 3, published in list 3/79.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list 4/79, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 2 February, contains applications to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 Plates, sheets, strip, film and foil, of vinyl chloride polymers or copolymers, printed and unprinted, not pressure-sensitive:
a of a thickness exceeding 0.035 mm but not exceeding 0.25 mm, classifiable under tariff subheadings 39.02.53, 39.02.54. 10 and 39.02.54.20.
b of a thickness exceeding 0.25 mm but not exceeding 0.75 mm, classifiable under tariff subheading 39.02.54.30.
2 Completed and semi-completed sails for sailing vessels of a *mass per m^2 not exceeding 500 g*, classified under tariff heading 62.04.
(Note: this application supersedes the application published in list 1/79 of 12 January)
3 Certain printing paper and writing paper, classifiable under subheadings 48.07.85.10, 48.07.85.80 and 48.07.85.90.
4 Anti-wave apparatus for use in swimming baths, classifiable under tariff subheading 97.06.90.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the applications are being informed. Any British firm affected belonging to a trade association which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5274.

Thailand

Import of luxury goods. The Thai government has decided to remove a temporary ban on the import into Thailand of certain luxury products from the eight products listed below:

CCCN no.	Description of goods
08.04	Grapes fresh or dried
16.04	Sharks fins
20.07	Fruit juices used in the making of soft drinks
42.02	Travel goods (trunks, suitcases, etc)
48.21	Toilet paper and facial tissues
49.09	Picture postcards and greeting cards, etc
49.10	Calendars of any kind, of paper or paperboard, etc
69.10	Sanitary ware (bathtubs only) (all other sanitary fittings under this heading remain on the banned list)

The import ban on the other luxury items remains in force.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

United States

Ingredient labelling. The *Federal Register*, 20 February, published a notice of a proposed rule-making, by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which will amend its regulations to require partial ingredient labelling of alcoholic beverages. Comments must be received on or before 3 April 1979.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Kites. On 26 January 1979, the *Federal Register* published a proposed regulation by the Consumer Product Safety Commission banning certain aluminised polyester film kites. Comments must be received on or before 27 March.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

European community news

Farm price freeze essential – Jenkins outlines commission programme

As long as agricultural market imbalances last there has to be a rigorous price policy, and that means a general freeze on farm prices during the coming season.

Outlining the European commission's programme for the year ahead to the European parliament on 13 February, commission president Roy Jenkins said that this freeze, along with the other measures the commission had proposed, could succeed in restoring a proper balance to the agricultural policies.

Mr Jenkins said that the situation and prospects on the agricultural markets were worse today than a year ago. Milk production was accelerating yet consumption was static, and every third ton of sugar produced was exported with the aid of an all too substantial subsidy.

In order to restore fair competition and normal conditions of trade, the president said, the community had to return to the unity of the agricultural market. 'We could make substantial progress in monetary compensatory amounts this year, and move towards elimination over a period of years. But in eliminating MCAs we must not compromise our price policy,' Mr Jenkins said.

Jenkins: 'need for better balance of economic activity.'

Relations with developing countries

The community still faced difficulties and dilemmas in its relations with both developed and developing countries. These had been underlined in the multilateral trade negotiations and the negotiations for a successor to the Lomé convention. The commission had to ensure that the trading system it was constructing contained its own checks and balances. 'The phenomenon, for example, of the highly competitive low-cost producer is only an extreme manifestation of a wider problem of adjustment to which protection cannot ultimately be the answer,' Mr Jenkins went on.

Over the past year, the community had found it necessary to take a number of measures to safeguard employment in certain industries suffering from overcapacity and excess labour. These measures would only be acceptable to the EEC's trading partners, Mr Jenkins said, if they were accompanied by active and responsible policies to adapt the EEC's economies.

The commission was conscious of the need to shift the emphasis to the promotion of growth sectors as well as to the promotion of the longer-term framework within which industrial change could take place.

'This also concerns us in our negotiations for a new convention with the African, Caribbean, and Pacific state countries. It would make little sense to offer generous aid and trading benefits to these countries if we refused to prepare ourselves to accept an increasing volume of their products.'

European monetary system

It was a matter for profound regret, the president said, that the European monetary system had not been launched at the beginning of the year. But it was essential to underpin and sustain what had been created by accelerating the processes of convergence within the community. The commission would soon bring forward proposals to improve the mechanisms and to increase the momentum of co-ordination, he said.

The community also needed to make much more of its existing benefits to ensure a better balance of economic activity within it. The community needed, too, to deal with the special difficulties of the less prosperous member states. To this end, the commission was re-examining the role that the community's instruments, jointly and separately, could play in promoting convergence, as had been requested by the European council.

Intra-community trade

Formalities, and procedures at intra-community frontiers remained a hindrance to export business, Mr Jenkins said. The commission would be bringing forward during 1979 a new five-year programme designed to establish the customs union on a more solid basis through the progressive introduction of community customs legislation, and in this way to encourage a far freer flow of goods over internal frontiers.

Direct elections

At present, two important institutional changes were taking place within the community framework, the president said. One was the growing role of the European council, which had provided a vital impulse to the evolution of the community, and the other was direct elections to the European parliament. Serious thought should be given to ways in which a link could be established between the council and parliament, he said. The enlargement of the community was also bound to have a significant effect on the operation of the institutions.

'At this stage I stress the importance of the commission's management role. Without some extension of that role and better definition of the distinction between political and executive decisions, I fear that in an enlarged community the risks of confusion and paralysis will become even more serious,' Mr Jenkins said.

'I welcome the prospect of the more intensive relationship that directly elected deputies may wish to have with the other institutions of the community, including the commission, in the name of their electors. If the electoral campaign can focus on the essential purposes and problems of the community, then it will have achieved something that we have found to be a major obstacle in our work – whether it be in the commission, the parliament or the council – namely to make a reality to the individual citizen of the sometimes complex and obscure processes of community life.'

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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New system for measuring alcoholic content 356

Technology news

Better use of energy 363

Overseas trade news

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Social fund can now create employment

Social fund money can now be used to help create employment through the special programmes for young people the council agreed to last November.

Vice-president of the commission Henk Vredeling said on 9 February that it was now possible to grant employment premiums to firms creating additional jobs for young people and to subsidise social service projects in which young people were working. Mr Vredeling was speaking on the community role in the field of social and employment policy to the London Europe Society and the Confederation of British Industry in London.

At present, he said, 72 million European units of account (Eua) would be available for such projects. Unemployment in the community had increased from around 2 100 000 in 1973 to 6 million last year and, of that total, around 40 per cent were below the age of 25.

Accompanying social programme

Mr Vredeling said that the commission had to ensure that, at community level, no restructuring of sectors in difficulties took place without an accompanying social programme being drawn up. This programme should be primarily motivated by the desire to avoid dismissals.

'In the case of the steel industry we regard an improvement in the distribution of working time as one means of achieving that aim, or at least of bringing it within reach. We are thinking there of a reduction in the number of hours worked per week, restrictions on systematic overtime, early retirement of older workers and the introduction of extra shift measures.'

Vredeling: 'fair labour standards important'.

Another aspect of social policy which was of importance for many workers, he said, was fair labour standards. This involved the promotion of minimum standards for working conditions and the social protection of workers, particularly in the third world. The application of these standards was unfortunately not merely of theoretical importance, he said because so many people still earned their daily bread under miserable conditions.

'The standards which we proposed to the council at the beginning of November 1978 concern the elimination of discrimination on grounds of sex, belief or race, a maximum working week (48 hours), a minimum age for people working in industry (14), and health protection and safety measures at work. I am aware that in some quarters the application of these standards is regarded as a hidden form of protectionism, but I should like to contradict this view. The aim of our proposals is not to erect a wall to protect our market from the competition with which the poorer countries, with their low wages, threaten the western economies. All the same, it is true that one motive for these standards is to improve the mutual competition between the poorer countries themselves. The application of these standards will put an end to the advantages which some countries derive from the exploitation within the production process of workers who are without rights.'

Need for policy

To this end he wanted to present a communication to the council of ministers to get its support. 'We need a policy especially taking into account the enlargement of the community. Faced with the accession of new member states, the commission wants to devote its efforts first and foremost to regional development in these countries in order to provide opportunities for training and the development of employment for the workers.'

Foreign ministers approve basis for Yugoslav and Romanian talks

EEC foreign ministers have approved both a mandate for negotiations with Yugoslavia on a co-operation agreement, and the general basis for negotiation with Romania on arrangements covering trade in industrial products. The Romanian talks also cover the establishment of a mixed commission.

Reporting on the outcome of the 6 February foreign affairs council in a parliamentary written reply, Frank Judd, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said that questions relating to the status of the 1979 budget and future budgetary procedure had been discussed.

He had urged the council to reach an early decision on this important matter, but no final conclusions had been reached. Officials had been instructed to continue their examination of the issues. The presidency had left open the possibility of holding a further meeting to discuss the budget before the next foreign affairs council on 6 March.

Mr Judd said the commission had reported on developments in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade multilateral trade negotiations. The council had decided to consider a further report and to take any necessary decisions at its next meeting.

Also to be considered at the 6 March council was the question of the successor to the Lomé convention. The commission had reported to the council on the present state of talks, Mr Judd said.

The council had noted that discussion with the assembly on the regional fund regulation had been concluded. There had been further discussion at the council of the position to be adopted over regulations governing aid to non-associates, but no decision had been reached. The question had been remitted therefore to officials for further consideration.

A mandate for the commission to negotiate community participation in a draft international physical protection convention had been considered. The council had agreed on interim arrangements on commission participation in meetings on the convention now taking place in Vienna, and had instructed officials to work out a mandate urgently.

The council had resumed its discussion of a draft mandate for the commission to negotiate a safeguard agreement between Euratom and Australia, and had asked officials to do further work on this with a view to a resumed discussion in next month's council.

Under other business, the UK had emphasised the urgent need for the adoption this year of the proposed concession for Cyprus new potatoes.

Exporting possibilities in applicant countries

Greece, Portugal and Spain are interesting markets for exporters of agricultural machinery, horticultural equipment, and meat and livestock. This is one of the conclusions drawn by the British Agricultural Export Council (BAEC) in its report 'The enlargement of the EEC – an assessment of the implications for the UK exporter in agriculture or related industries', published on 22 January.

The report says that these three applicant countries, with important agricultural sectors in their economies, would in return stand to gain substantially from membership of the community.

UK exporters, in particular, could find a valuable market in these three states. The report says the demand for meat is likely to continue to rise and that livestock imports, combined with a systematic approach to increasing the size and quality of the countries' own beef and dairy herds, will be needed.

The three applicant countries have many common characteristics when it comes to agriculture, which the report analyses. It goes on to consider the likely significance of EEC membership on the sector, and assesses the implications of enlargement for the UK exporter in agriculture and related industries.

The report is available from BAEC, 35 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QN, price £25 to members and £35 to non-members.

ESC to hold competition law conference

European Study Conferences will be holding its fifth annual conference, 'Recent developments in the competition law of the EEC', on 19 to 20 March. The conference will take place at the Royal Garden Hotel, London.

Further information is available from European Study Conferences Ltd, Kirby House, 31 High Street East, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9PY, tel. 057 282 2711.

Direct elections publicity drive begins

Interior of European parliament, Strasbourg.

UK information offices of the European parliament and commission launched a three-month campaign on 13 February to publicise the European parliament direct elections to be held for the first time on 7 June.

The programme will try to explain the new constitutional right given to the community's voters, why and how the elections are being held, and the parliament's role and powers in the community's decision-making process. The programme is not political and it will end before the political parties start their electoral campaigns.

The publicity drive consists of touring exhibitions, films, slides and publications. It will end with advertisements in the national and provincial press.

New EEC documents

This list of EEC documents was deposited in the house of commons in the seven days up to 1 February (commission reference numbers, where appropriate, are given in parentheses). The documents are available for consultation at the European communities information office, 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ.

EEC draft instruments

R/3424/78. Proposal for a council regulation (EEC) amending regulation (EEC) 1358/77 laying down general rules for offsetting storage costs for sugar (COM(78)706).

R/4106/79. Commission memoranda concerning community coal research programmes on mining techniques and obtaining the best return on products (COM(78)723).

R/4372/79. Proposal for a council regulation defining the conditions under which a person may be permitted to make a customs declaration (COM(78)724).

R/4356/79. Proposal for a council directive on information to be published on a regular basis by companies whose transferable securities are admitted to official stock exchange listing (COM(78)759).

R/4365/79. Proposal for a council decision amending decision 78/476/EEC on the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties carried out in third countries (COM(78)725).

R/4272/79. Amendments to the proposal for a council directive on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances (COM(78)742).

R/4300/79. Amendment to the proposal for a council regulation (EEC) amending regulation (EEC) 1108/70 introducing an accounting system for expenditure on infrastructure in respect of transport by rail, road and inland waterway (COM(78)722).

R/4301/79. Proposal for a council decision on community aid for restructuring or conversion investments in the shipbuilding industry; proposal for a council decision on community aid for restructuring or conversion investments in the textile industry, particularly in the man-made fibres industry (COM(78)769).

R/4318/79. Food aid – amended commission proposals on management procedures (COM(79)1).

R/4330/79. Commodities: cocoa – conclusion of the second international cocoa agreement (COM(78)741).

S/2264/78. Draft decision of the EEC-Greece association council on adjustments to be made to the lists and to the tariff nomenclature of certain products referred to in the EEC-Greece association agreement (COM(78)689).

R/4228/79. Draft joint committee decision supplementing annexes II and III to protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation by the addition of alternative rules for the products of chapters 84 to 92 of the customs co-operation council nomenclature; proposal for a council regulation (EEC) on the application of an EEC-joint committee decision supplementing annexes II and III to protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation by the addition of alternative percentage rules for the products of chapters 84 to 92 of the customs co-operation council nomenclature (COM(78)745).

Consultative document

R/4405/79. Proposal for transfers of appropriations within section III – commission – of the budget for the financial year 1978 (COM(79)12).

New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7174/482/408.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations, directives and decisions which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 130/79 on the granting of aid for concentrated grape must used in wine-making during the 1978-79 wine year (*Official Journal* L19, 26 January 1979).
Regulation (EEC) 217/79 laying down detailed rules for direct co-operation between the bodies designated to verify compliance with provisions in the wine sector (*Official Journal* L31, 7 February 1979).

Milk and milk products. Regulations (EEC) 129/79 amending footnote (3) to annex IV of regulation (EEC) 1579/70 laying down special conditions for the export of certain cheeses to Spain (*Official Journal* L19, 26 January 1979).
Regulation (EEC) 199/79 extending the promotional and publicity measures referred to in regulation (EEC) 723/78 in respect of milk and milk products (*Official Journal* L28, 2 February 1979).

Seeds, plants and propagating material. The *Official Journal* L22, 31 January 1979, contains the texts of the following decisions:
Decision 79/92/EEC authorising Germany to restrict the marketing of seed of certain varieties of fodder plants and cereals.
Decision 79/93/EEC authorising the United Kingdom to restrict the marketing of seed of certain varieties of fodder plants and cereals.
Decision 79/94/EEC authorising France to restrict the marketing of seed of certain varieties of fodder plants and cereals.
Decision 79/95/EEC amending decisions 75/578/EEC, 76/221/EEC, 77/145/EEC and 78/124/EEC.

Agricultural plants. The *Official Journal* C12, 15 January 1979. contains the text of the fifth complete edition of the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species. Copies of *Official Journal* C12 may be obtained from HMSO, price £3.40, plus postage.

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Corrigenda. The *Official Journal* L26 contains the following correction to regulation (EEC) 3136/78 (published in the *Official Journal* L370, 30 December 1978) laying down detailed rules for fixing the import levy on olive oil by tender.
Page 74, article 4 (2):
for '2. The rate indicated on the licence shall be that referred to in Article 2 (4) (c)'
read '2. The rate indicated on the licence shall be that referred to in Article 1 (3) (c)'.
Corrigenda. The *Official Journal* L31, 7 February 1979, contains the following correction to regulation (EEC) 2980/78 (published in the *Official Journal* L355, 19 December 1978) amending regulation (EEC) 1204/72 laying down detailed rules for the application of the subsidy system for oil seeds.
Page 17, article 1 (5), 'Article 33 (1)':
for 'in Annex VI to Regulation (EEC) 1470/68'.
read 'in Annexes I to V to Regulation (EEC) 1470/68'.

Animal health. The *Official Journal* L29, 3 February 1979, contains the texts of the following directives:
Directive 79/109/EEC amending 64/432/EEC as regards brucellosis.
Directive 79/110/EEC authorising Italy to postpone the notification and implementation of its national plans for the accelerated eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle.
Directive 79/111/EEC amending directive 64/432/EEC as regards brucellosis and prolonging, in respect of brucellosis, tuberculosis and swine fever, certain derogation measures granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Hops. Regulation (EEC) 235/79 amending regulation (EEC) 1696/71 on the common organisation of the market in hops as regards the verification of the equivalence of attestations accompanying hops imported from non-member countries (*Official Journal* L34, 9 February 1979).

Alleged dumping: haematite pig iron originating in Brazil, the German Democratic Republic and USSR

The European commission has received information indicating that dumping is being practised or that bounties or subsidies are being granted in respect of imports of haematite pig iron – CCT heading ex 7301B, Nimexe codes 7301-21, 23 and 25 – originating in Brazil, the German Democratic Republic and the USSR and that this is causing injury to a community industry.

In conjunction with the member states, the

commission has begun examination of the matter at community level in accordance with recommendation 77/329/ECSC on protection against dumping or granting of bounties or subsidies by countries which are not members of the European Coal and Steel Community, as modified by recommendations 3004/77/ECSC and 158/79/ECSC.

Any information relating to the matter may be sent in writing to the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for External Relations, 200 Rue de la Loi, B1049 Brussels, telex Comeubru 21877.

Interested parties may make their views known in writing by 10 March, in particular by replying to the questionnaire addressed to the parties known to be concerned and by providing supporting evidence.

Furthermore, the commission will hear parties directly concerned who request this when making known their views to the commission, provided they can show that they have an interest sufficient to entitle them to express their views more fully.

It would be helpful if copies of all representations to the commission could also be sent to the Department of Trade's Anti-Dumping Unit, Room 348, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 3625.

This notice is published in the *Official Journal* C35/3, 8 February, in lieu of official notification to the German Democratic Republic and the USSR.

Food-law harmonisation directives

The following is a list of food-law harmonisation directives, which have been adopted or are under discussion in the European Economic Community.

Further information about the directives may be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE. Food, Room 514, tel. 01-216 6420; food additives, Room 556, tel. 01-216 6114; materials etc, Room 555, tel. 01-216 7277.

Subject	Reference of directive or latest draft received	Status (where applicable)
Food		
Cocoa and chocolate products	73/241/EEC of 24.7.73	Directive (*OJ* 16.8.73)
	74/411/EEC of 1.8.74	Amending directive (*OJ* 12.8.74)
	74/644/EEC of 19.12.74	Amending directive (*OJ* 28.12.74)
	75/155/EEC of 4.3.75	Amending directive (*OJ* 11.3.75)
	76/628/EEC of 20.7.76	Amending directive (*OJ* 16.8.76)
	4198/VI/76	Preliminary draft
	III/970/77	Preliminary draft
	COM(77)658 FINAL	Commission proposal (*OJ* 10.1.78)
	78/609/EEC of 29.6.78	Amending directive (*OJ* 22.7.78)
	COM(78)333 FINAL	Commission proposal
	78/842/EEC of 10.10.78	Amending directive (*OJ* 17.10.78)
Erucic acid levels in food	76/621/EEC of 20.7.76	Directive (*OJ* 28.7.76)
Certain sugars	73/437/EEC of 11.12.73	Directive (*OJ* 27.12.73)
	III/797/77	Preliminary draft
Certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk	76/118/EEC of 18.12.75	Directive (*OJ* 30.1.76)
	COM(77)155 FINAL	Commission proposal (*OJ* 25.5.77)
Honey	74/409/EEC of 22.7.74	Directive (*OJ* 12.8.74)
Fruit juices and similar products	75/726/EEC of 17.11.75	Directive (*OJ* 1.12.75)
	COM(78)332 FINAL	Commission proposal
Natural mineral waters	COM(70)441 FINAL	Commission proposal (*OJ* 11.6.70)
Foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses	77/94/EEC of 21.12.76	Directive (*OJ* 31.1.77)
Jams, marmalades, fruit jellies	COM(75)419 FINAL	Commission proposal (*OJ* 4.9.75)
Coffee extracts and chicory extracts	77/436/EEC of 27.6.77	Directive (*OJ* 12.7.77)
Labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs	79/112/EEC of 18.12.78	Directive (*OJ* 8.2.79)
Tomato products		
tomato concentrates	1821/VI/76	Preliminary draft
preserved tomatoes	1822/VI/76	Preliminary draft
Processing and handling of quick frozen foods	III/576/77	Preliminary draft
Food additives		
Acids, bases and salts	2607/VI/76	Preliminary draft
Antioxidants	70/357/EEC of 13.7.70	Directive (*OJ* 18.7.70)
	74/412/EEC of 12.8.74	Amending directive (*OJ* 12.8.74)
	78/143/EEC of 30.1.78	Amending directive (*OJ* 15.2.78)
	111/218/78	Preliminary draft
	78/664/EEC of 25.7.78	Directive on specific criteria of purity for antioxidants (*OJ* 14.8.78)
Colouring matters	2645 of 23.10.62	Directive (*OJ* 11.11.62)
	65/469/EEC of 25.10.65	Amending directive (*OJ* 26.10.65)
	67/653/EEC of 24.10.67	Amending directive (*OJ* 30.10.67)
	68/419/EEC of 20.12.68	Amending directive (*OJ* 24.12.68)
	70/358/EEC of 13.7.70	Amending directive (*OJ* 18.7.70)
	76/399/EEC of 6.4.76	Amending directive (*OJ* 26.4.76)
	78/144/EEC of 30.1.78	Amending directive (*OJ* 15.2.78)
	III/218/78	Preliminary draft
Emulsifiers, stabilisers, thickeners and gelling agents	74/329/EEC of 18.6.74	Directive (*OJ* 12.7.74)
	78/612/EEC of 29.6.78	Amending directive
	III/218/78	(*OJ* 22.7.78)
	III/3018/78	
	78/663/EEC of 25.7.78	Directive on specific criteria of purity (*OJ* 14.8.78)
Flavourings	III/79/78 & III/1536/78	Preliminary drafts
Preservatives	64/54/EEC of 5.11.63	Directive (*OJ* 27.1.64)
	65/569/EEC of 23.12.65	Amending directive (*OJ* 28.12.65)
	66/722/EEC of 14.12.66	Amending directive (*OJ* 20.12.66)
	67/427/EEC of 27.6.67	Amending directive (*OJ* 11.7.67)
	68/420/EEC of 20.12.68	Amending directive (*OJ* 24.12.68)
	70/359/EEC of 13.7.70	Amending directive (*OJ* 18.7.70)
	71/160/EEC of 30.3.71	Amending directive (*OJ* 17.4.71)
	72/2/EEC of 20.12.71	Amending directive (*OJ* 4.1.72)
	72/444/EEC of 26.12.72	Amending directive (*OJ* 31.12.72)
	74/62/EEC of 17.12.73	Amending directive (*OJ* 11.2.74)
	74/394/EEC of 22.7.74	Amending directive (*OJ* 30.7.74)
	76/462/EEC of 4.5.76	Amending directive (*OJ* 14.5.76)
	76/629/EEC of 20.7.76	Amending directive (*OJ* 16.8.76)
	78/145/EEC of 30.1.78	Amending directive (*OJ* 15.2.78)
	79/40/EEC of 18.12.78	Amending directive (*OJ* 19.1.79)
	COM(78)488 FINAL	Commission proposal
	III/218/78	Preliminary draft
	65/66/EEC of 26.1.65	Directive on specific criteria of purity for preservatives (*OJ* 9.2.65)
	67/428/EEC of 27.6.67	Amending directive on purity criteria (*OJ* 11.7.67)
	76/463/EEC of 4.5.76	Amending directive on purity criteria (*OJ* 14.5.76)
Starches	III/973/77	Preliminary draft
Solvents	2373/VI/76	Preliminary draft
Materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs		
General directive	76/893/EEC of 23.11.76	Directive (*OJ* 9.12.76)
Materials and articles in glass intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	687/VI/73	Preliminary draft
	2637/VI/75	Further preliminary draft
Materials and articles in stainless steel intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	688/VI/73	Preliminary draft
Materials and articles in ceramics intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	COM(74)2173 FINAL	Commission proposal (*OJ* 27.2.75)
Materials and articles in plastics intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	3003/VI/74	Preliminary draft
	4235/VI/75	
	980/VI/77	
	COM(78)115 FINAL	Commission proposal
	1521/III/78	
Materials and articles which contain vinyl chloride monomer and are intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	COM(76)680 FINAL	Commission proposal (*OJ* 21.1.77)
	78/142/EEC of 30.1.78	Directive (*OJ* 15.2.78) and corrigendum (*OJ* 15.2.78)
Materials and articles in regenerated cellulose film intended to come into contact with foodstuffs	2642/VI/76	Preliminary draft

Article 100 checklist

Trade and Industry's quarterly checklist of measures adopted or proposed under article 100 was published in last week's issue.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators [2]

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers'	Retailers'	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1975 prices		at 1975 prices			at 1975 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1975											
Series in		£ million	£ million			£ million				£ million		
Stock level at end-1977						34,469	20,261	4,540	3,181			
1973	103.4	65 497	21 609	3 504	4 674	2 983	1 336	432	624	−999	−2 383	1 384
1974	101.5	64 070	21 164	3 822	4 605	1 462	1 288	361	−180	−3 591	−5 235	1 644
1975	100.0	63 192	20 817	3 522	3 841	−1 925	−1 221	−249	−100	−1 855	−3 236	1 381
1976	102.9	63 320	20 489	3 345	3 926	261	316	131	13	−1 149	−3 601	2 452
1977	104.9	62 732	19 738	3 573	4 325	1 051	442	266	29	371	−1 744	2 115
1978		66 261								84 p	−1 129	1 213 p
1976 2nd qtr	102.7	15 785	5 137	828	972	−17	−29	−10	−67	−315	−949	634
3rd qtr	103.3	15 884	5 168	849	1 005	189	99	81	46	−421	−1 136	715
4th qtr	104.0	15 927	4 997	856	1 014	214	260	17	27	−334	−966	632
1977 1st qtr	103.8	15 619	4 794	851	1 030	442	235	82	117	−453	−946	493
2nd qtr	104.8	15 495	5 025	879	1 044	354	97	179	4	−297	−779	482
3rd qtr	105.0	15 777	4 965	910	1 103	6	−6	−80	−59	541	−3	544
4th qtr	105.9	15 841	4 954	932	1 149	249	116	85	−33	580	−16	596
1978 1st qtr	106.1	16 311	5 030	920	1 169	460	38	81	62	−361	−590	229
2nd qtr	108.0	16 370	5 056	960	1 180	432	272	−62	128	135	−173	308
3rd qtr	108.9	16 810	5 029	968	1 159	434	162	38	54	−49	−365	316
4th qtr		16 704 pe							89	359 p	−1	360 p
% change last 2 qtrs on prev. 2 qtrs.	+2.3	+2.5	+1.0	+4.1	+0.9							
on a year earlier	+3.4	+6.0	+1.0	+7.8	+8.9							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and earnings					Labour (UK)			Visible trade (volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Average gross earnings of all employees (GB, all industries and services covered)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Export	Import
				monthly averages		% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count	On a balance of payment basis	
	at 1975 prices		at 1971 prices		(not seasonally adjusted)				(old series)				at 1975 prices	
Base of index	1975	1975	1971		Jan. 1974		1975	1975	Jan. 1970				1975	1975
£m in base year			16,296										19,463	22,699
Series in				thousands						thousands		thousands		
1973	109.5	108.4	110.3	137.1	93.5	9.1	58.8	66.7	152.1	611.0	2.6	307.0	97.7	108.8
1974	105.1	106.5	109.0	102.8	108.5	16.0	86.8	81.8	179.1	599.7'	2.6'	302.7'	104.2	109.7
1975	100.0	100.0	106.7	97.2	134.8	24.2	100.0	100.0	226.6	929.0	3.9	150.0'	100.0	100.0
1976	102.0	101.4	106.5	104.7	157.1	16.5	127.0	117.3	261.9	1 269.8'	5.4'	120.4'	109.7	105.6
1977	105.8	102.8	103.6	107.1	182.0	15.8	145.6	140.5	288.5	1 378.1	5.8	155.6'	118.9	107.3
1978	109.7	103.6	109.2	130.1	197.1	8.3	144.6 p	153.3 p	330.2 p	1 375.6	5.8	210.3	122.9	112.8
1977 1st qtr	105.5	103.8	103.3	104	174.1	16.5	144.8	133.0	280.0	1 329.5	5.6	..	115.9	108.9
2nd qtr	105.6	102.4	102.4	103	181.9	17.4	148.8	139.6	285.3	1 340.6	5.6	157.7	117.7	110.7
3rd qtr	106.2	103.0	104.2	112	184.7	16.5	146.5	143.8	288.3	1 414.6	5.9	151.9	124.6	107.3
4th qtr	105.8	101.9	104.7	110	187.4	13.1	142.2	145.8	300.4	1 427.8	6.0	160.1	117.3	102.4
1978 1st qtr	106.9	102.1	106.4	131	190.6	9.5	140.2	149.2	310.8	1 409.4	5.9	187.7	119.6	113.8
2nd qtr	110.9	104.7	107.9	132	195.8	7.7	146.3	151.8	329.0	1 372.7	5.7	210.3	122.2	110.0
3rd qtr	111.2	104.9	110.7	135	199.2	7.8	144.9	154.8	334.6	1 380.5	5.8	213.0	124.9	114.4
4th qtr	109.9	102.7	111.7	123	202.6	8.1	147.1	157.3	346.6 p	1 339.7	5.6	230.3	125.1	112.8
1978 Jan	106.7	102.1	105.3	127	189.5	9.9	139.4	148.3	306.3	1 419.2	5.9	180.3	111.0	113.1
Feb	107.3	102.0	106.7	122	190.6	9.5	139.1	149.2	311.2	1 409.0	5.9	187.0	127.3	111.8
Mar	106.7	102.3	107.2	145	191.8	9.1	142.0	150.0	314.8	1 400.0	5.9	195.8	120.4	116.6
Apr	111.2	105.2	106.9	134	194.6	7.9	145.1	150.9	325.7	1 387.1	5.8	203.7	124.3	105.1
May	110.1	103.4	108.2	126	195.7	7.7	146.8	151.9	327.2	1 366.4	5.7	209.9	120.5	113.6
Jun	111.4	105.4	108.6	135	197.2	7.4	147.0	152.7	334.0	1 364.7	5.7	217.4	121.9	111.4
Jul	111.4	105.0	111.0	109	198.1	7.8	145.8	153.8	332.7	1 371.4	5.7	211.0	125.7	112.2
Aug	111.7	105.5	111.7	148	199.4	8.0	144.2	154.8	333.2	1 392.1	5.8	209.3	124.5	111.6
Sep	110.5	104.2	109.6	146	200.2	7.8	144.8	155.7	338.0	1 378.3	5.8	218.7	124.4	119.5
Oct	108.9	102.1	110.2	134	201.1	7.8	145.7	156.6	344.8	1 359.6	5.7	228.4	125.9	111.3
Nov	109.6	102.5	110.5	119	202.5	8.1	147.3	157.1	343.5	1 338.8	5.6	231.3	122.6	114.1
Dec	111.3 p	103.6 p	113.8	115	204.2	8.4	148.2 p	158.3 p	351.4 p	1 320.7	5.5	231.2	126.7	113.0
1979 Jan			109½p		207.2	9.3	150.6 p	159.8 p		1 339.1	5.6	235.9	113.1 p	107.3 p
Feb										1 362.6	5.7	230.9		
% change latest 3 months														
on prev. 3 months	−1.2	−2.1	+1.0	−8.7	+2.2		+2.6	+1.7	+3.6	−1.3		+2.9	−3½	−2½
on a year earlier	+3.9	+0.8	+5.8	+12.2	+8.6		+5.6	+7.9	+15.4	−5.4		+31.1	+5	+5½

p Provisional e Estimate pe 2nd preliminary estimate ' Average of available months [2] Including figures published by 20 February 1979

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Combined engineering sectors: sales and orders up to November

After addition of information for November 1978 and revisions to earlier data, the trend and seasonally adjusted volume index numbers of sales and orders for the combined engineering industries show a somewhat less optimistic picture than they have in recent months.

The slow but steady increase in the trend of total sales dating from the beginning of 1978 appears to have faltered in September, the poor sales performance of the engineering industries in October and November outweighing the high seasonally adjusted figure for September. The seasonally adjusted figures for new orders also fell back in the latest two months. This has resulted in a less buoyant estimate of the trend, although the level of new orders remains respectable compared with that of the previous three years. The trend of orders-on-hand has been creeping generally upwards since the middle of 1976 but the cumulative effect is very small and orders-on-hand are still only 5 per cent higher than then and, in fact, more than 25 per cent lower than their average level in 1974.

In the home market, the trend in sales turned down slightly in October reflecting the sudden fall in the seasonally adjusted series in that month. The trend of new orders from the home market now appears to have levelled off in September although home orders-on-hand are still climbing sluggishly from the exceptionally low levels of mid-1977.

Despite the gradual decline in the trend of sales during recent months, prospects in the export market seem to be slighly more encouraging than elsewhere. New orders in this market remain on a strongly rising trend, although there are some signs of a slackening off even here. Order books have also increased of late to return to around the level of the base year.

The revised figures published in this table are based on the monthly engineering inquiry relating to November 1978. The response rate of 76 per cent to the inquiry for November 1978 is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for August, September and October 1978, response rates for these months were 92, 91 and 86 per cent respectively.

An expanded commentary, together with additional tables, is given in Business Monitor PM 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £4.32 per annum. Separate commentaries and volume indices are given for sales, orders-on-hand and net new orders

Notes to table

[1] This ratio shows the number of months work in the order book in the base year at the then average rate of sales. [2] For orders-on-hand the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period. The percentage charges have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point. p Provisional.

Volume index numbers for the combined engineering industries up to November

	Total			Home			Export		
	1975 average = 100	1975 average monthly sales = 100		1975 average = 100	1975 average monthly sales = 100		1975 average = 100	1975 average monthly sales = 100	
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New orders	Sales
Ratio orders-on-hand/ av monthly sales in 1975 [1]	7.7			7.2			8.6		
Trend estimates									
1976									
July	80	94	96	78	88	95	85	108	99
August	80	97	96	77	89	95	86	114	99
September	81	99	96	76	90	95	88	119	100
October	81	100	97	76	91	95	91	120	101
November	81	100	97	75	92	95	92	118	102
December	81	99	98	75	93	96	94	115	103
1977 p									
January	82	99	97	75	93	95	95	113	102
February	82	99	97	74	93	95	96	112	102
March	82	98	97	74	92	94	97	111	102
April	82	97	96	74	92	93	98	111	103
May	82	97	96	74	91	93	99	111	105
June	82	96	96	73	91	92	99	110	106
July	82	96	97	73	91	92	99	108	108
August	82	96	97	73	92	92	99	106	108
September	82	97	96	74	93	92	99	105	107
October	82	98	96	74	94	92	99	106	106
November	83	99	96	74	95	92	99	107	105
December	83	100	96	75	96	93	100	109	105
1978 p									
January	84	100	97	75	97	94	100	109	105
February	84	100	98	75	97	95	100	108	106
March	84	99	98	76	96	95	100	106	106
April	84	98	99	76	96	95	100	102	107
May	84	97	99	76	96	96	99	100	107
June	83	98	99	76	97	96	98	100	107
July	83	100	100	76	98	97	98	103	106
August	84	101	100	76	99	97	98	106	106
September	84	102	99	77	99	97	98	109	105
October	84	103	99	77	99	96	99	111	105
November	85	103	98	77	99	96	99	112	104
Percentage change [2] Aug-Nov 1978	+1.5	+2.0	−1.5	+1.0	—	−1.5	+1.5	+5.5	−2.5
Seasonally adjusted									
1973	113	116	98	119	120	105	100	106	84
1974	114	103	102	115	102	104	112	106	97
1975	88	84	100	87	83	100	90	84	100
1976	81	92	97	75	87	95	94	104	101
1977 p	83	98	97	75	93	93	100	109	105
1976									
1st qtr	84	85	96	83	83	93	86	90	100
2nd	80	87	97	79	86	96	82	89	101
3rd	80	97	96	77	90	95	87	114	99
4th	81	100	97	75	90	94	94	123	103
1977 p									
1st qtr	82	99	97	74	94	95	97	109	101
2nd	82	98	97	73	90	93	100	115	106
3rd	82	96	97	73	92	92	99	105	108
4th	83	100	96	75	97	93	100	105	103
1978 p									
1st qtr	84	100	99	76	96	95	100	109	108
2nd	83	96	98	75	94	95	98	100	106
3rd	84	103	101	76	101	98	99	109	106
1977 p									
January	82	103	100	75	97	98	95	115	105
February	82	99	98	75	98	96	95	103	102
March	82	94	94	74	88	92	97	110	97
April	82	101	98	74	93	95	98	120	106
May	83	98	94	74	90	90	100	116	103
June	82	94	97	73	87	93	100	109	108
July	82	93	99	73	93	94	98	92	109
August	83	103	95	74	97	90	99	116	106
September	82	93	97	73	87	91	99	108	110
October	82	99	97	73	94	93	99	109	106
November	82	94	93	74	95	90	98	93	102
December	83	106	98	75	102	96	100	114	102
1978 p									
January p	83	94	96	75	92	92	99	99	105
February	85	112	98	76	100	94	103	139	107
March	84	94	102	76	97	99	100	89	111
April	84	94	96	75	91	93	100	100	103
May	84	101	99	76	100	96	99	105	107
June	83	93	99	75	92	96	98	94	106
July	83	99	98	76	103	95	96	90	105
August	83	103	101	77	98	97	97	115	111
September	84	107	103	76	101	103	99	123	103
October	85	101	96	77	98	93	99	106	104
November	85	101	96	78	98	93	100	107	102
Jun-Aug 1978 (av)	83	98	99	77	98	96	97	100	108
Sep-Nov 1978 (av)	85	103	98	78	99	96	100	112	103
Percentage change [2]	+2.0	+4.5	−1.0	+1.5	+1.0	+0.5	+3.0	+12.0	−4.0

for total, home and export markets, for mechanical, instrument and electrical engineering (SIC orders VII, VIII and IX respectively).

The same nine series are given for each of the 36 industries within engineering in a quarterly Business Monitor PQ 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), also obtainable from HMSO for a subscription of £1.56 per annum.

Inquiries: Department of Industry, Room 607, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 5770.

Price Commission index for January

The rise in the Price Commission index over the six months to January was 8.4 per cent expressed as an annual rate. The corresponding figure for December 1978 was 5.7 per cent.

Over the 12 months to January, the index rose by 7.1 per cent, compared with a rise of 5.9 per cent in the 12 months to December 1978. The figures for January are more than usually provisional as the final details of some large cases have yet to be confirmed.

Percentage changes over six-month periods in Price Commission index, retail prices index and wholesale price index: annualised rates

Six months to	Price Commission index	Retail prices index [1]	Wholesale price index [2]
1976			
July	12.6	12.9	15.6
August	12.4	13.2	16.8
September	13.5	14.5	18.2
October	16.9	14.4	18.5
November	19.3	14.2	20.1
December	18.2	15.2	20.3
1977			
January	18.2	18.0	25.2
February	19.0	18.4	24.5
March	20.8	18.7	23.4
April	17.4	19.7	25.2
May	16.1	20.0	23.7
June	15.0	19.6	24.0
July	14.3	15.6	18.6
August	11.5	14.9	16.7
September	7.8	14.1	15.6
October	7.3	9.9	11.7
November	5.8	8.7	8.6
December	6.0	7.4	7.1
1978			
January	5.9	7.2	7.2
February	7.2	7.2	7.7
March	7.5	6.8	7.9
April	7.2	8.4	7.9
May	6.8	8.6	8.7
June	6.1	8.9	8.9
July	5.9	9.1	7.6
August	4.5	9.6	7.6
September	4.3	9.6	7.7
October	4.7	7.7	7.7
November	4.9	8.0	7.0
December	5.7	8.2	7.5
1979			
January	8.4 p	. .	8.0

[1] Excluding seasonal foods. [2] Manufactured products.
p Provisional.

ECGD addresses

The Export Credits Guarantee Department's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL, tel. 01-606 6699.

Index of industrial production for December

Estimates to the end of 1978 suggest that the underlying level of industrial output has changed little since the sharp rise between the first and second quarters of the year.

Before any adjustment (apart from regular seasonal factors), the provisional estimates show that the average level of the all-industries' index in the period October to December 1978 was 1 per cent below the level in the preceding three months while the index for manufacturing industries fell by 2 per cent. These decreases in the index numbers largely reflect losses in output attributable to industrial disputes in the motor vehicle industry. The analysis by broad market sector suggests that, over the same period, the output of the consumer goods industries fell by about 1 per cent, output of investment goods industries dropped 3½ per cent, and the output of the intermediate goods industries remained at the same level.

The all-industries' index in the latest three months was about 4 per cent above its level in the same period a year ago; a similar comparison for manufacturing industries shows a rise of about 1 per cent.

Many of the series used in compiling the index of production, in particular for the manufacturing industry, measure deliveries rather than production. Deliveries may differ from production in a given month because of movements in stocks of finished goods and work in progress. Because reasonably firm, detailed figures for stock changes are available only quarterly, index numbers adjusted for stock movements can only be produced on a quarterly basis – such a series was included in the article in 22/29 December *Trade and Industry*. The assessment of trend, however, takes account of these quarterly stock movements and makes some allowance for anticipated movements in the latest months.

The index numbers shown in the tables are all seasonally adjusted. The seasonal adjustment process is designed to remove annually recurring month to month variations due, for example, to the incidence of holidays and other regular seasonal patterns of behaviour. The adjustments, however, can in general only be derived from analysis of past experience and may not be completely appropriate when holiday patterns change sharply. Changes in recent years in the amount and incidence of industrial holidays taken between Christmas and new year's day and around the spring bank holiday may not be fully reflected in the seasonally adjusted estimates.

The provisional estimates for May and June in recent years are particularly vulnerable to distortions because of holiday effects. The spring bank holiday was taken on 6 June in 1977 in England and Wales, and an extra public holiday was taken throughout the United Kingdom on 7 June 1977. In 1978, the spring bank holiday reverted to May and a new public holiday was introduced on 1 May. The current assessment of the underlying level of industrial production makes broad allowance for these effects.

Inquiries: 01-233 7238.

Index numbers: detailed analysis on next page

Index of industrial production: summary

Average 1975 = 100

		Total all industries	All industries other than construction	Mining and quarrying	Total manufacturing industries	Food, drink and tobacco	Manufacturing industries: Chemicals, coal and petroleum products	Manufacturing industries: Metal manufacture	Manufacturing industries: Engineering and allied industries	Manufacturing industries: Textiles, leather and clothing	Manufacturing industries: Other manufacturing	Construction	Gas, electricity and water
Order		II-XXI		II	III-XIX	III	IV-V	VI	VII-XII	XIII-XV	XVI-XIX	XX	XXI
Weights		1 000	810	41	697	77	66	47	298	67	142	182	80
1973		109.5	107.6	110.2	108.3	103.2	107.7	125.1	103.5	111.3	114.7	118.2	99.3
1974		105.1	105.0	90.0	106.5	102.5	110.6	114.6	104.6	103.6	109.5	105.8	99.2
1975		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976		102.0	102.7	125.7	101.4	102.7	111.3	106.9	97.0	100.9	103.9	98.6	102.9
1977		105.8	107.4	187.6	102.8	103.9	114.4	102.0	98.9	101.6	105.7	98.2	107.0
1978		109.7	110.8	233.4	103.6	106.3	115.3	100.5	99.3	100.6	108.3	105*	109.5
1977	1st qtr	105.5	107.5	174.1	103.8	105.3	115.9	102.7	99.1	104.0	107.5	96.3	106.5
	2nd	105.6	107.5	191.1	102.4	103.7	114.4	102.4	99.0	100.8	104.1	96.9	108.9
	3rd	106.2	107.8	190.7	103.0	102.6	114.0	107.6	99.4	101.3	105.1	98.8	107.6
	4th	105.8	106.8	194.7	101.9	104.2	113.4	95.4	98.2	100.2	106.1	101.0	105.2
1978	1st qtr	106.9	108.2	208.7	102.1	106:7	111.1	95.0	100.0	97.8	104.3	101.7	108.2
	2nd	110.9	111.7	230.6	104.7	107.7	115.0	107.8	100.0	101.0	108.8	107.2	112.2
	3rd	111.2	112.3	237.5	104.9	104.0	117.3	101.6	101.0	102.8	110.0	106.7	111.3
	4th	109.9	110.9	256.8	102.7	106.8	117.8	97.5	96.0	100.6	110.3	106*	106.3
1978	Jan	106.7	108.0	205	102.1	109	110	91	100	97	105		108
	Feb	107.3	108.7	215	102.0	106	110	95	100	98	105		111
	Mar	106.7	108.0	207	102.3	106	113	99	100	98	103		106
	Apr	111.2	112.1	223	105.2	106	115	107	100	105	110		116
	May	110.1	110.6	233	103.4	107	114	105	100	98	107		111
	Jun	111.4	112.3	236	105.4	111	117	112	100	100	109		110
	Jul	111.4	112.5	237	105.0	103	119	112	101	103	106		113
	Aug	111.7	112.8	239	105.5	105	117	92	103	104	112		111
	Sep	110.5	111.4	237	104.2	104	116	100	99	101	112		109
	Oct	108.9	109.6	242	102.1	106	117	98	96	100	109		106
	Nov	109.6	110.5	261	102.5	108	119	93	95	102	112		103
	Dec	111.3	112.5	268	103.6	106	117	101	98	101	110		110
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1. previous three months		−1.2	−1.2	8.1	−2.1	2.7	0.4	−4.0	−4.9	−2.1	0.3		−4.5
2. a year earlier		3.9	3.8	31.9	0.8	2.5	3.8	2.3	−2.2	0.4	4.0		1.1

* Preliminary estimates

Index of industrial production: detailed analysis

Average 1975 = 100

	Mining and quarrying		Food, drink and tobacco		Chemicals, coal and petroleum products		Metal manufacture		Engineering and allied industries				
									Engineering				
	Coal mining	Other mining and quarrying	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total engineering	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering
MLH	101	102-109	211-229	231-240	261-263	271-279	311-313	321-323	331-369	331-349	351-354	361-369	370
Weights	34	7	54	23	9	57	35	12	170	92	12	66	14
1973	103.3	142.5	106.0	96.3	120.6	105.8	127.8	116.9	98.4	97.2	92.4	101.3	95.4
1974	85.5	110.8	104.0	99.1	115.9	109.8	114.8	113.8	102.3	101.3	98.7	104.5	98.9
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	92.8	277.9	103.2	101.6	105.7	112.2	106.9	106.9	96.5	95.1	96.6	98.5	96.5
1977	90.1	638.3	105.1	101.2	102.7	116.2	99.8	108.7	97.3	93.2	98.7	102.7	93.2
1978	89.4	899.3	106.5	105.8	101.1	117.4	98.3	107.1	100.0	93.3	105.2	108.4	89.0
1977													
1st qtr	91.5	555.6	106.6	102.2	105.4	117.4	99.2	113.0	98.3	95.9	96.3	102.0	90.9
2nd	91.1	653.3	105.1	100.2	102.7	116.2	100.4	108.3	96.4	92.6	99.3	101.3	100.5
3rd	89.9	656.5	104.6	97.9	102.2	115.8	107.9	106.7	97.6	93.1	99.7	103.4	96.7
4th	88.0	687.8	104.0	104.6	100.4	115.4	91.6	106.6	96.8	91.3	99.4	104.1	84.9
1978													
1st qtr	90.2	756.7	106.1	108.0	98.6	113.0	91.7	105.0	98.4	91.9	100.1	107.4	93.4
2nd	88.8	886.1	106.9	109.5	98.3	117.5	107.5	108.9	99.7	92.6	105.9	108.6	92.9
3rd	89.8	920.4	105.9	99.6	105.3	119.1	99.2	108.9	101.6	94.9	107.1	110.0	89.6
4th	88.8	1 033.9	107.1	106.1	102.1	120.1	94.9	105.5	100.1	93.7	107.5	107.6	80.0
1978													
Jan	89	741	109	106	97	113	87	103	98	92	99	106	93
Feb	91	788	104	110	95	112	92	105	99	92	100	107	94
Mar	91	741	105	107	104	114	97	108	99	92	101	108	93
Apr	91	834	103	111	98	117	103	117	99	92	105	108	87
May	87	910	107	106	99	116	106	104	100	93	106	109	93
Jun	89	915	110	112	98	120	113	106	100	93	107	109	99
Jul	90	915	106	98	107	121	113	111	102	95	107	110	91
Aug	89	929	107	100	106	119	86	111	102	95	107	110	92
Sep	90	917	105	101	103	118	99	105	102	95	108	110	86
Oct	88	958	105	108	105	119	97	103	100	94	107	109	82
Nov	89	1 052	108	109	100	122	90	102	100	94	108	108	84
Dec	89	1 092	108	101	101	119	98	111	100	94	108	107	74
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1. previous three months	−1.1	12.3	1.1	6.5	−3.0	0.8	−4.4	−3.1	−1.5	−1.3	0.4	−2.1	−10.7
2. a year earlier	0.9	50.3	2.9	1.4	1.7	4.1	3.6	−1.1	3.4	2.6	8.2	3.4	−5.7

	Engineering and allied industries (continued)				Textiles, leather and clothing			Other manufacturing					
	Total vehicles	Motor vehicles	Other vehicles	Metal goods not elsewhere specified	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total bricks, pottery, glass, etc	Bricks, cement, etc	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries
MLH	380-385	381	380, 382-385	390-399	411-429	431-433	441-450	461-469	461, 464-469	462,463	471-479	481-489	491-499
Weights	68	43	25	46	40	3	24	28	17	11	25	58	31
1973	113.3	118.8	103.5	110.1	117.1	107.1	102.1	113.7	120.7	103.5	118.9	115.7	110.2
1974	108.9	110.8	105.6	108.7	105.9	98.7	100.2	107.2	109.1	104.4	101.9	115.5	106.8
1975	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	97.0	100.2	91.3	98.8	103.0	102.3	97.1	101.0	99.1	103.8	103.9	102.5	109.0
1977	100.9	107.2	89.6	104.0	100.9	97.1	103.2	99.8	93.8	108.5	97.6	106.9	115.4
1978	98.4	103.7	89.0	101.0	99.1	96.6	103.5	101.7	93.7	113.2	102.7	110.2	115.7
1977													
1st qtr	99.8	106.9	87.3	104.0	105.4	102.4	101.8	100.0	93.7	109.3	99.6	108.3	119.1
2nd	102.4	109.0	90.8	103.0	99.9	95.9	103.0	99.5	93.0	108.8	93.9	106.7	111.6
3rd	100.5	106.1	90.5	105.2	100.5	95.2	103.4	100.4	93.5	110.6	97.4	105.9	114.2
4th	100.7	107.0	89.7	103.7	98.0	94.8	104.7	99.3	95.2	105.2	99.4	106.7	116.6
1978													
1st qtr	104.1	112.8	88.8	101.8	97.1	90.6	99.8	96.1	89.2	106.1	96.7	105.7	115.3
2nd	101.2	107.4	90.1	101.3	99.8	99.1	103.3	103.2	95.1	114.9	103.6	109.1	117.7
3rd	100.5	107.2	88.7	103.1	101.7	99.4	105.1	103.7	93.8	117.9	104.8	111.4	117.3
4th	88.0	87.6	88.6	98.1	97.8	97.4	105.8	103.7	96.6	114.0	105.7	114.4	112.7
1978													
Jan	106	116	89	102	98	91	98	96	90	105	95	105	121
Feb	103	111	89	101	98	91	100	97	89	109	98	106	116
Mar	103	111	89	102	96	91	102	96	89	104	97	107	109
Apr	103	110	90	105	104	99	107	105	97	118	106	109	122
May	102	109	90	97	98	99	100	102	94	115	104	107	112
Jun	98	103	90	102	98	99	103	102	95	112	101	111	119
Jul	101	108	89	103	100	99	109	100	92	111	103	108	111
Aug	105	114	88	106	104	99	104	105	94	122	103	114	123
Sep	96	100	89	100	101	99	103	106	95	121	109	112	118
Oct	85	84	88	97	98	97	102	105	96	117	107	111	111
Nov	80	76	89	99	98	97	108	105	97	118	109	117	112
Dec	98	103	89	99	97	97	108	101	97	107	101	115	115
Percentage change latest three months on:													
1. previous three months	−12.5	−18.3	0.0	−4.9	−3.8	−2.0	0.7	0.1	2.9	−3.3	0.9	2.7	−4.0
2. a year earlier	−12.7	−18.1	−1.2	−5.4	−0.1	2.8	1.1	4.5	1.5	8.4	6.3	7.2	−3.4

Release dates of economic statistics to be published in March

Information in this table is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the Government Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publications of major economic series in March. The dates are those which departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at, and would normally expect to meet. Exceptionally, there may be a delay resulting from unavoidable statistical problems of collection and compilation. Further inquiries about individual series should be addressed to the source named.

Publication date and series	Method of release	Source
March		
1 Thurs		
Unemployment (Jan – final)	*Gazette*	Department of Employment
Employment in the production industries (Dec)	*Gazette*	Department of Employment
Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Dec)	*Gazette*	Department of Employment
Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Jan)	*Gazette*	Department of Employment
Energy Trends '	PN	Department of Energy
2 Fri		
UK official reserves (Feb)	PN	HM Treasury
Capital issues and redemptions (during the month of February)	PN	Bank of England
5 Mon		
Retail sales (Jan – final)	PN	Department of Trade
Wholesale price index numbers (Feb – prov)	PN	Department of Industry
Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Jan)	PN	Department of Trade
7 Wed		
United Kingdom balance of payments (4th qtr)	PN	CSO
8 Thurs		
Provisional figures of vehicle production (Feb)	PN	Department of Industry
Construction – output (4th qtr)	PN	Department of the Environment
Housing starts and completions (Jan)	PN	Department of the Environment
Survey of short-term export prospects (to the 3rd qtr 1979)	PN	Department of Trade
9 Fri		
Central government transactions (including borrowing requirement) (Feb)	PN	HM Treasury
Company liquidity survey (4th qtr)	*Trade and Industry*	Department of Industry
12 Mon		
Retail sales (Feb – prov)	PN	Department of Trade
13 Tues		
Building societies' receipts and loans (Feb)	PN	BSA
London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-Feb)	PN	CLCB
UK banks' eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits (mid-Feb)	PN	Bank of England
14 Wed		
Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Feb)	PN	Department of Trade/ CSO
Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (Feb)	PN	Department of Employment
Monthly index of average earnings (Jan)	PN	Department of Employment
15 Thurs		
Index of industrial production (Jan – prov)	PN	CSO
UK banking sector statistics (4th qtr)	*Bulletin*	Bank of England
Financing of the central government borrowing requirement (4th qtr)	*Bulletin*	Bank of England
Money stock (4th qtr)	*Bulletin*	Bank of England
16 Fri		
Retail prices index (Feb)	PN	Department of Employment

Footwear industry: orders, deliveries and stocks in November

In the three months ended November 1978, deliveries in the footwear industry were estimated to be 5 per cent lower on a seasonally adjusted pairage basis than in the three months ended August 1978. Net new orders were 2 per cent lower than in the previous three months, while at the end of November orders-on-hand were 4 per cent lower than those in August 1978. The index of output in the three months ended November 1978 was 5 per cent lower than in the three months ended August 1978.

Detailed breakdown

A detailed breakdown of manufacturers' deliveries by type of footwear in pairage and value terms, together with figures of exports, imports, consumers' expenditure, prices and employment is published in the Business Monitor production series under the reference PQ 450.

The index of output is calculated from the value of total sales and work done by firms classified to the footwear industry (minimum list heading 450 of the standard industrial classification). In using the index numbers, it should be borne in mind that when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant price value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent years.

Data on pairage

The data on pairage and value relate to complete footwear only sold by manufacturers classified to MLH 450 and to other industries (eg rubber) in the SIC, employing 25 or more persons.

Inquiries: 01-212 6787.

Index of output: orders in hand, new orders, deliveries and stocks of complete footwear

Monthly averages or monthly totals

	Index of output 1975 = 100	Orders-on-hand (end period)		Net new orders			Deliveries			Stocks (end period)
		Million pairs	£m	Million pairs		£m	Million pairs		£m	Million pairs
1966		33.6					16.4			
1967		37.8		16.5			16.1			
1968		41.6		17.3			17.0			
1969		34.6		15.9			16.5			
1970		38.9		16.6			16.2			
1971		32.5	55.7	15.7			16.2		23.8	19.4
1972		29.5	59.6	15.2		24.8	15.4		24.5	18.5
1973	107	46.2	85.2	17.1		30.5	15.7		28.4	16.5
1974	105	44.3	79.5	14.3		30.9	14.4		31.3	18.0
1975	100	38.8	91.8	13.2		36.2	13.7		35.1	15.8
1976	99	46.8	132.9	13.8		42.8	13.1		39.4	14.4
1977	104	44.8	142.3	13.3		49.3	13.4		48.5	16.0
	Season-ally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Actual	Season-ally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Season-ally adjusted	Actual	Actual
1976 1st qtr	98	42.6	89.2	14.6	13.2	38.9	13.3	13.0	39.8	19.0
2nd	98	46.3	107.5	12.8	13.2	40.4	11.5	12.4	34.3	20.9
3rd	98	36.9	89.7	10.0	12.2	34.7	13.2	12.9	40.7	17.2
4th	101	46.8	132.9	17.6	16.3	57.3	14.3	13.8	42.9	14.4
1977 1st qtr	103	57.6	140.9	17.4	16.0	51.7	13.8	13.6	49.0	14.7
2nd	105	57.4	154.2	12.7	12.6	48.2	12.8	13.3	43.7	17.2
3rd	103	47.5	110.3	10.1	12.3	35.0	13.3	13.2	49.6	14.1
4th	108	44.8	142.3	13.3	12.8	49.3	13.4	13.6	48.5	16.0
1978 1st qtr	99	60.9	156.7	18.4	16.9	58.5	13.0	12.7	53.7	17.2
2nd p	105	66.2	177.3	14.3	14.6	56.6	12.5	13.6	49.8	21.2
3rd p	108	51.7	148.4	8.9	10.7	48.1	13.8	13.9	57.7	17.9
1976 January	102	38.9	88.2	13.2	13.8	33.9	13.1	14.0	37.6	
February	97	40.0	89.3	14.1	13.1	40.3	12.9	12.7	39.2	
March	96	42.6	89.2	16.5	12.8	42.5	13.9	12.4	42.6	
April	99	42.2	94.4	12.2	10.7	39.7	11.6	12.4	34.5	
May	99	48.0	108.4	15.9	14.7	47.0	11.1	12.3	33.0	
June	96	46.3	107.5	10.2	14.3	34.4	11.8	12.5	35.3	
July	96	40.8	90.7	6.3	11.3	20.2	11.8	12.6	37.0	
August	97	38.1	87.9	8.8	12.3	33.7	11.4	12.3	36.6	
September	101	36.9	89.7	15.1	13.1	50.3	16.2	13.8	48.5	
October	100	44.9	111.7	23.6	18.3	67.6	15.6	13.7	45.7	
November	100	45.9	126.0	15.6	14.1	59.1	14.6	13.1	44.8	
December	104	46.8	132.9	13.6	16.4	45.0	12.6	14.8	38.1	
1977 January	100	51.8	133.8	16.3	18.5	42.7	11.9	13.2	41.8	
February	103	54.2	136.9	16.4	15.1	52.6	14.0	13.7	49.5	
March	105	57.6	140.9	19.1	14.5	59.7	15.6	14.0	55.7	
April	102	60.4	153.5	14.8	13.5	53.0	12.0	13.4	40.3	
May	109	62.6	164.0	15.8	13.7	56.4	13.7	14.5	45.9	
June	104	57.4	154.2	7.5	10.6	35.2	12.7	13.3	45.0	
July	99	53.7	135.4	8.0	15.1	23.5	11.7	13.1	42.2	
August	106	47.2	123.7	6.5	8.6	13.0	13.0	13.4	48.2	
September	104	47.5	110.3	15.7	13.2	45.2	15.4	13.0	58.6	
October	106	44.8	128.9	12.6	9.6	75.2	15.4	13.5	56.6	
November	107	41.5	134.9	11.6	10.6	61.8	14.9	13.3	55.7	
December	105	44.8	142.3	14.7	18.1	50.2	11.4	13.8	42.8	
1978 January	97	54.6	140.5	21.9	23.1	47.0	12.1	12.8	48.8	
February	98	55.8	142.1	14.0	13.0	55.2	12.9	12.6	53.6	
March	103	60.9	156.7	19.3	14.6	73.3	14.1	12.7	58.8	
April p	109	57.2	163.9	8.6	8.3	55.6	12.2	14.5	48.4	
May p	98	67.5	184.6	22.3	18.4	69.4	12.1	12.2	48.7	
June p	107	66.2	177.3	12.1	17.1	44.9	13.3	14.0	52.2	
July p	108	57.3	155.7	3.4	6.6	29.8	12.3	13.8	51.3	
August p	113	54.0	149.4	10.8	14.5	52.6	14.1	14.6	58.9	
September p	103	51.7	148.4	12.6	11.1	62.0	15.0	13.2	63.0	
October p	105	50.0	154.9	14.1	10.2	73.6	15.8	13.2	67.2	
November p	102	52.0	175.2	17.8	16.1	80.9	15.5	13.9	60.6	

[1] Based on early returns, seasonally adjusted deliveries in November are expected to be 13.5 million pairs (unadjusted deliveries 11 million pairs). p Provisional.

Release dates continued

Usable steel production (Feb)	PN	BSC/ BISPA
18 Sun		
Department for National Savings' monthly progress report (Feb)	PN	Department for National Savings
19 Mon		
National food survey report on consumption (4th qtr)	PN	MAFF
Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Feb)	PN	CSO
20 Tues		
Unemployment (Mar – prov)	PN	Department of Employment
Unfilled vacancies (Mar – prov)		
Gross domestic product (4th qtr – prov)	PN	CSO
Construction – new orders (Jan)	PN	Department of Environment
22 Thurs		
Car and commercial vehicle production (Feb – final)	PN	Department of Industry
UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-Feb)	PN	Bank of England
London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-Feb)	PN	Bank of England
New vehicle registrations (Feb)	PN	Department of Transport
Bricks and cement production (Feb)	PN	Department of the Environment
Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (4th qtr – rev)	PN	Department of Industry
Capital expenditure by the manufacturing, distributive and service industries (4th qtr – rev)	PN	Department of Industry
23 Fri		
Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Dec)	*Trade and Industry*	Department of Industry
29 Thurs		
Unemployment (Feb – final)	*Gazette*	Department of Employment
Employment in the production industries (Jan)		
Overtime and short-time working in the manufacturing industries (Jan)		
Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Feb)		
Finished steel consumption and stock changes (4th qtr – final)	PN	Department of Industry
Energy Trends [1]	PN	Department of Energy

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Eighth floor, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Made-up clothing: orders and deliveries in November

In the three months ended November 1978, deliveries by the clothing industry were provisionally estimated to have been the same as in the preceding three months while net new orders were 3 per cent higher. Orders-on-hand at the end of November 1978 were 3 per cent lower than the end-August 1978 level. (These comparisons are based on the seasonally adjusted series in the accompanying table.)

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficultes the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent years.

All indices have been rebased from 1970 = 100 to 1975 = 100.

Inquiries: Department of Industry, Room 524, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, SW1P 2AG, tel. 01-212 0116.

Made-up clothing
Index numbers of total orders and deliveries

	Orders-on-hand (end period)		Net new orders		Deliveries	
	December 1974 = 100		Average 1975 Deliveries = 100		Average 1975 Deliveries = 100	
1973	110		108		102	
1974	100		100		100	
1975	98		103		100	
1976	92		102		98	
1977	96		107		104	
	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1973						
1st qtr	102	107	111	113	102	100
2nd	123	113	119	111	102	104
3rd	105	114	89	106	100	101
4th	110	108	115	104	107	104
1974						
1st qtr	116	121	98	101	95	94
2nd	120	110	107	99	99	102
3rd	95	103	84	99	101	101
4th	100	99	111	102	105	103
1975						
1st qtr	112	116	103	109	103	106
2nd	115	106	116	105	100	100
3rd	88	95	83	97	97	97
4th	98	97	110	102	100	98
1976						
1st qtr	90	93	96	97	99	98
2nd	114	104	113	105	96	99
3rd	87	93	87	102	98	97
4th	92	91	110	102	101	98
1977						
1st qtr	101	105	110	110	105	104
2nd	108	99	107	99	100	104
3rd	91	97	97	111	104	103
4th	96	94	113	107	107	106
1978						
1st qtr	93	95	104	107	103	103
2nd p	112	101	116	105	102	105
3rd p	95	104	93	107	105	105
1977						
Jan	99	102	98	113	93	104
Feb	98	103	110	106	111	105
Mar	101	105	121	110	111	102
Apr	106	104	115	105	100	104
May	113	100	118	89	101	102
Jun	108	99	87	104	99	107
Jul	97	96	94	119	105	105
Aug	91	96	82	109	93	102
Sep	91	97	116	105	115	101
Oct	91	95	126	98	123	104
Nov	95	94	116	97	107	101
Dec	96	94	97	126	91	112
1978						
Jan	93	95	88	103	91	101
Feb	90	94	108	106	109	103
Mar	93	95	115	112	108	107
Apr p	105	101	133	109	111	105
May p	118	102	126	105	95	106
Jun p	112	101	87	100	101	104
Jul p	103	103	91	110	107	108
Aug p	96	104	74	103	91	102
Sep p	95	104	114	109	116	105
Oct p	98	104	126	102	118	101
Nov p	101	101	126	110	114	109

p Provisional.

Domestic furniture: deliveries and orders in December

Domestic furniture deliveries for December are provisionally estimated at £74.9 million (current prices), which gives a seasonally adjusted index of deliveries for the month of 112. The average for the latest three months, October to December, is 108 which is 3.3 per cent lower than the revised figure for the previous three months, July to September, and 5.7 per cent higher than the figure for the same period in 1977.

The index of orders on hand, on a seasonally adjusted basis, yields a provisional figure of 85 for December. The average for the three months October to December is 85 which is a rise of 11.3 per cent from the revised figure for the previous three months, and 26.5 per cent higher than the very low level of the corresponding period a year before.

Inquiries: Department of Industry, Economics and Statistics Division 3B, Room 107, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1, tel. 01-212 8662.

Note: The indices are given on 1975 constant price basis with 1975=100. When price increases are large, the problems associated with revaluation to constant prices become more acute. Thus relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in times in high inflation.

	Deliveries £m current values	Index of deliveries (1975 = 100)		Index of orders on hand (end of month or centred average 1975 = 100)	
		Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
1974	430.7		93		92
1975	578.9		100		100
1976	660.2		101		84
1977	751.0 r		99		70
1978	920.7 p		108 p		75 p
1977					
3rd qtr	168.7	87	97	62	66
4th	217.7	110	103	69	67
1978					
1st qtr	220.6	108	102	75	70
2nd	225.6	108	111	68	70
3rd	219.2	101	112	71	76
4th	255.4	116 p	108 p	87 p	85 p
1977					
Jul	48.0	79	98	60	65
Aug	52.3	78	96	63	66
Sep	68.4	106	96	65	66
Oct	73.2	115	102	66	66
Nov	78.8	117	102	74	69
Dec	65.7	97	104	68	65
1978					
Jan	70.4 r	102 r	102 r	78	72
Feb	72.6 r	115	104	77	70
Mar	77.5 r	106	99	71 r	69 r
Apr	76.3	118	120	70	72
May	73.2	98	101	66	70
Jun	76.1	106	112	61	68
Jul	60.6 r	88	109	66	73
Aug	70.4 r	92 r	114 r	77	80
Sep	88.2	125	114	81	83
Oct	87.2	118	105	84	84
Nov	93.2 r	125	109	92 r	86 r
Dec	74.9 p	104 p	112 p	89 p	85 p
Averages					
Jul-Sep 1978			112		76
Oct-Dec 1978			108		85
Percentage change			−3.3		+11.3
Oct-Dec 1977			103		67
Oct-Dec 1978			108		85
Percentage change			+5.7		+26.5

r Revised. p Provisional.

Turnover of the motor trades in the fourth quarter

Turnover of the motor trades in the fourth quarter of 1978 was 18 per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1977. On the same comparison, new vehicle sales increased by 25 per cent, used vehicle sales increased by 18 per cent and other sales and receipts (which include sales of petrol and oil, tyres, spares and accessories and receipts from servicing and repairs) rose by 13 per cent.

In the year 1978 as a whole, the turnover of the motor trades was 23 per cent higher than in 1977, the increase in sales of new and used vehicles being 37 and 25 per cent respectively, while other sales and receipts rose by 12 per cent.

The statistics are of turnover at current prices. Movements therefore include the effect of price changes, including changes in purchase tax before the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT and car tax from the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT on petrol from the second quarter of 1974, and subsequent changes in the rates of VAT. The turnover includes transactions between dealers in addition to final sales. Vehicles include commercial vehicles as well as private cars and motor cycles.

The estimates for the third quarter have been revised to take account of additional information from late returns.

The figures are not seasonally adjusted.

The returns made by a voluntary panel are used to project the figures of turnover in a base year (1972) obtained in a comprehensive inquiry to motor traders.

Inquiries: 01-215 3177.

Turnover of the motor trades: Index numbers

Index numbers of turnover per quarter at current prices (including purchase tax or VAT and car tax)

Percentage changes compared with a year earlier in brackets — 1972 = 100

	Total turnover	New vehicle sales	Used vehicle sales	Other sales
Turnover in 1972 (£ million)	(8 109)	(3 089)	(1 373)	(3 647)
1972	100	100	100	100
1973	111 (+11)	110 (+10)	102 (+2)	115 (+15)
1974	119 (+7)	106 (−3)	100 (−2)	137 (+19)
1975	143 (+20)	123 (+16)	128 (+28)	166 (+21)
1976	174 (+22)	159 (+29)	158 (+24)	192 (+16)
1977	212 (+22)	202 (+27)	195 (+23)	228 (+18)
1978	262 (+23)	276 (+37)	245 (+25)	256 (+12)
1972				
1st qtr	95	94	100	93
2nd	105	109	107	101
3rd	102	101	103	104
4th	98	96	90	102
1973				
1st qtr	117 (+23)	126 (+34)	119 (+18)	109 (+17)
2nd	110 (+5)	110 (+1)	103 (−3)	113 (+12)
3rd	114 (+12)	111 (+10)	108 (+5)	119 (+15)
4th	102 (+4)	93 (−3)	80 (−12)	118 (+16)
1974				
1st qtr	108 (−8)	102 (−20)	87 (−27)	120 (+10)
2nd	122 (+11)	112 (+2)	106 (+3)	136 (+20)
3rd	126 (+11)	110 (−1)	111 (+3)	146 (+22)
4th	121 (+18)	102 (+10)	95 (+20)	147 (+24)
1975				
1st qtr	137 (+27)	127 (+25)	116 (+33)	152 (+27)
2nd	148 (+21)	129 (+15)	136 (+27)	168 (+23)
3rd	152 (+21)	131 (+19)	143 (+29)	174 (+19)
4th	135 (+12)	105 (+3)	117 (+23)	168 (+15)
1976				
1st qtr	166 (+22)	161 (+27)	153 (+32)	175 (+15)
2nd	176 (+19)	162 (+25)	170 (+26)	189 (+12)
3rd	178 (+17)	159 (+22)	167 (+17)	199 (+15)
4th	176 (+30)	155 (+48)	143 (+22)	205 (+22)
1977				
1st qtr	203 (+22)	199 (+23)	189 (+24)	211 (+21)
2nd	210 (+20)	197 (+22)	196 (+15)	226 (+19)
3rd	230 (+29)	220 (+39)	215 (+29)	243 (+22)
4th	207 (+18)	191 (+23)	179 (+25)	230 (+12)
1978				
1st qtr	257 (+27)	289 (+45)	233 (+23)	240 (+14)
2nd	268 (+28)	283 (+43)	264 (+34)	258 (+14)
3rd (revised)	277 (+21)	295 (+34)	271 (+26)	264 (+8)
4th	244 (+18)	239 (+25)	212 (+18)	261 (+13)

Index of retail prices for January

The index of retail prices for all items for 16 January, 1979 was 207.2 (15 January, 1974 = 100). This represents an increase of 1.5 per cent on December 1978 (204.2) and of 9.3 per cent on January 1978 (189.5).

The rise in the index in January was due mainly to increases in the prices of fresh foods, particularly vegetables, meat and dairy produce; to an increase in the level of mortgage interest payments; to increases in motoring costs and passenger fares; and to increases in charges for meals bought and consumed outside the home.

The movements for the main groups in the index are shown in table 2.

Notes

1 The retail prices index measures the change from month to month in the average level of prices of goods and services purchased by most households in the UK. The expenditure pattern on which the index is based is revised each year using information from the family expenditure survey. The expenditure of certain higher income households and households of retired people dependent mainly on social security benefits is excluded.

2 The index covers a large and representative selection of nearly 350 separate goods and services, for which price movements are regularly measured in more than 200 towns throughout the country. Approximately 150 000 separate price quotations are used each month in compiling the index.

3 Seasonal variations in the index of retail prices are due largely to a very few items of 'seasonal food' that is, those items of food the prices of which show significant seasonal variations. These items account for less than five per cent of total retail expenditure. If the variation caused by these items is removed, the underlying trend of the figures can be seen more clearly.

4 Rates of change of indices can be calculated over periods of any length. However, rates calculated over periods as long as twelve months are slow to detect changes in trend, while calculations over periods as short as three months give rather volatile results. To help in assessing trends, rates of changes in the all items index and the index for all items except seasonal food are shown in table 1 over successive periods of six months.

5 The index is given in full in the *Department of Employment Gazette*.

Inquiries: Watford 28500 ext. 630.

Table 1 Index of retail prices

	All items				All items except seasonal foods		
	Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	6 months	12 months	Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	6 months
1978							
August	199.4	+0.7	+4.6	+8.0	200.4	+0.9	+4.7
September	200.2	+0.4	+4.4	+7.8	201.4	+0.5	+4.7
October	201.1	+0.4	+3.3	+7.8	202.4	+0.5	+3.8
November	202.5	+0.7	+3.5	+8.1	203.8	+0.7	+3.9
December	204.2	+0.8	+3.5	+8.4	205.1	+0.6	+4.0
1979							
January	207.2	+1.5	+4.6	+9.3	207.3	+1.1	+4.3

Table 2 Index of retail prices: commodity breakdown

	Indices (15 Jan 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	12 Dec 1978	16 Jan 1979	
All items	204.2	207.2	+1.5
All items excluding food	202.4	204.3	+0.9
Food	210.5	217.5	+3.3
Seasonal food	183.0	207.6	+13.4
Other food	215.8	219.5	+1.7
Alcoholic drink	198.4	198.9	+0.3
Tobacco	231.1	231.5	+0.2
Housing	185.4	190.3	+2.6
Fuel and light	232.8	233.1	+0.1
Durable household goods	188.2	187.3	−0.5
Clothing and footwear	176.3	176.1	−0.1
Transport and vehicles	215.7	218.5	+1.3
Miscellaneous goods	214.6	216.4	+0.8
Services	199.0	202.0	+1.5
Meals out	215.7	218.7	+1.4

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for January

The current account of the UK balance of payments for January is estimated to have been in surplus by £1 million, following the large surplus of £187 million in December.

There was a deficit on trade in goods in January of £119 million, following the surplus of £67 million in December. The export figure for January was £2,814 million, that for imports, £2,933 million. Trade in January was adversely affected by the impact of the road haulage dispute. Although estimates can only be very approximate, it is likely that both exports and imports were below their underlying level by around £300 million, about 10 per cent of average monthly trade (see note 1). The balance on invisibles is projected to have been running at a monthly surplus of £120 million.

Latest three months

In the three months ended January, the current account was in surplus by £200 million, compared with a surplus of £153 million in the previous three months.

In the latest period, visible trade was in deficit by £160 million, compared with one of £178 million in the previous period.

The surplus on invisibles in the latest three months period is projected at £360 million.

Current account on balance of payments basis

VISIBLE TRADE (tables 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

January

In January, there was a deficit on visible trade of £119 million, following the surplus of £67 million in December. Both exports and imports were reduced in January by the impact of the road haulage dispute. It is not possible to estimate the size of the effect of the dispute on what the flows of trade would otherwise have been because of the generally erratic nature of the monthly figures. It appears, however, that both flows of trade were around £300 million (some 10 per cent of monthly trade) below their underlying levels. The export figures show a fall in January of £335 million from the December level, including a reduction of £60 million in the more erratic items. By commodity, although oil exports rose sharply from the low December level, there were widespread falls elsewhere. Imports show a decline of £149 million; excluding the more erratic items the fall was around £240 million. Again, the falls were generally spread over the commodity groups.

In terms of volume, reflecting the road haulage dispute, exports fell by 11 per cent (10 per cent excluding erratics) in January, and imports were down by 5 per cent (7½ per cent excluding erratics). The export unit value index increased by 1½ per cent and the import unit value index rose marginally, leading to an increase of 1 per cent in the terms of trade index.

Table 1 Current account

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible trade: Visible balance	Visible trade: Exports fob	Visible trade: Imports fob	Invisibles: Balance	Invisibles: Credits	Invisibles: Debits
1978 2nd quarter	+135	−173	8 752	8 925	+308	4 273	3 965
3rd quarter	−49	−365	9 053	9 418	+316	4 503	4 187
4th quarter	+359[1]	−1	9 246	9 247	+360[1]	n.a.	n.a.
1978 August	+104	−2	3 008	3 010	+106[2]		
September	−111	−216	3 034	3 250	+105[2]		
October	+160[1]	+40	3 073	3 033	+120[1]		
November	+12[1]	−108	3 024	3 132	+120[1]		
December	+187[1]	+67	3 149	3 082	+120[1]	Monthly figures of credits and debits are not available	
1979 January	+1[1]	−119	2 814	2 933	+120[1]		
1978 Aug-Oct	+153	−178	9 115	9 293	+331		
Nov-Jan 1979	+200[1]	−160	8 987	9 147	+360[1]		

[1] Invisibles are projections and subject to revision as information becomes available. [2] One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate; monthly figures of invisibles not available. n.a. Not available.

Table 2 Current balance, visible trade and invisible trade

Balance of payments basis

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible trade: Visible balance	Visible trade: Exports fob	Visible trade: Imports fob	Invisible balance
1977	+371	−1 744	32 148	33 892	+2 115
1978	+84[1]	−1 129	35 460	36 589	+1 213[1]
1977 1st quarter	−453	−946	7 520	8 466	+493
2nd quarter	−297	−779	7 921	8 700	+482
3rd quarter	+541	−3	8 531	8 534	+544
4th quarter	+580	−16	8 176	8 192	+596
1978 1st quarter	−361	−590	8 409	8 999	+229
2nd quarter	+135	−173	8 752	8 925	+308
3rd quarter	−49	−365	9 053	9 418	+316
4th quarter	+359[1]	−1	9 246	9 247	+360[1]
1978 August	+104	−2	3 008	3 010	+106[2]
September	−111	−216	3 034	3 250	+105[2]
October	+160[1]	+40	3 073	3 033	+120[1]
November	+12[1]	−108	3 024	3 132	+120[1]
December	+187[1]	+67	3 149	3 082	+120[1]
1979 January	+1[1]	−119	2 814	2 933	+120[1]
1978 Aug-Oct	+153	−178	9 115	9 293	+331
Nov-Jan 1979	+200[1]	−160	8 987	9 147	+360[1]
Percentage change[3]			−1½	−1½	

[1] Invisibles are projections and subject to revision as information becomes available. [2] One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate; monthly figures of invisibles are not available. [3] Percentage change: latest three months on previous three months.

Table 3 Invisibles

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Invisibles: Total: Balance	Invisibles: Total: Credits	Invisibles: Total: Debits	Invisibles: of which private sector and public corporations[1]: Balance	Invisibles: of which private sector and public corporations[1]: Credits	Invisibles: of which private sector and public corporations[1]: Debits
1977	+2 115	16 215	14 100	+4 807	14 772	9 965
1977 1st quarter	+493	3 935	3 442	+1 177	3 632	2 455
2nd quarter	+482	3 971	3 489	+1 159	3 659	2 500
3rd quarter	+544	4 103	3 559	+1 222	3 733	2 511
4th quarter	+596	4 206	3 610	+1 249	3 748	2 499
1978 1st quarter	+229	4 158	3 929	+1 091	3 685	2 594
2nd quarter	+308	4 273	3 965	+1 081	3 770	2 689
3rd quarter	+316	4 503	4 187	+1 148	3 949	2 801
1978 October	+120[2]					
November	+120[2]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
December	+120[2]					
1979 January	+120[2]					

n.a. Not available. [1] ie excluding general government transactions and all transfers. [2] See note 1 of table 2.

Three months ended January

In the three months ended January, there was a visible trade deficit of £160 million, compared with a deficit of £178 million in the previous period. An improvement of over £100 million in the surplus on the erratic items was more than offset by the adverse effects of the industrial action involving Ford last autumn. Elsewhere, there was a reduced deficit on trade in semi-manufactures other than chemicals and precious stones.

Exports in the three months ended January were valued at £8,987 million, 1½ per cent (£128 million) below the level of the previous period. Excluding erratic items, exports were down by nearly £250 million. By volume, exports fell by 3½ per cent (4 per cent excluding erratic items).

Imports in the latest three months were £9,147 million, 1½ per cent (£146 million) below the level of the previous period. In volume terms, imports fell by 2½ per cent.

The road haulage dispute and the Ford dispute in the autumn distort these comparisons. If broad allowance is made for these factors, both exports and imports would have been higher in value than in the previous three months, primarily the result of increased prices.

With the export unit value index rising by 2½ per cent and the import unit value index by 1½ per cent, the terms of trade increased by 1 per cent.

INVISIBLES (table 3)

The latest estimates of invisibles – services, interest, profits and dividends and transfers – relate to the third quarter of 1978 when credits were £4,503 million and debits £4,187 million, giving a surplus of £316 million for the quarter (a monthly average of £105 million). Invisibles of the private sector and public corporations, excluding transfers, were in surplus by £1,148 million in the third quarter (a monthly average of £383 million). The surplus on all invisibles is projected to be running at £120 million a month.

Area and commodity analysis of visible trade on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

The three-monthly comparisons for both exports and imports are affected by the impact of the road haulage dispute on the January figures. It is not possible to attribute the effect to individual areas or commodities; however, trade in fuels appears to have been largely

Table 4 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers

Balance of payments basis — Indices 1975 = 100

	Unit value (Not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (Seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade [1]	Exports	Imports
1977	142.5	141.3	100.8	118.9	107.3
1978	154.7	146.5	105.6	122.9	112.8
1977 1st quarter	135.8	137.1	99.1	115.9	108.9
2nd quarter	141.5	140.7	100.6	117.7	110.7
3rd quarter	145.3	143.4	101.3	124.6	107.3
4th quarter	147.4	143.9	102.4	117.3	102.4
1978 1st quarter	149.2	141.6	105.4	119.6	113.8
2nd quarter	152.8	146.2	104.5	122.2	110.0
3rd quarter	156.6	148.2	105.7	124.9	114.4
4th quarter	160.2	150.1	106.7	125.1	112.8
1978 August	156.6	148.1	105.7	124.5	111.6
September	158.3	148.9	106.3	124.4	119.5
October	158.6	149.6	106.0	125.9	111.3
November	160.9	149.9	107.3	122.6	114.1
December	161.1	150.9	106.8	126.7	113.0
1979 January	163.3	151.6	107.7	113.1	107.3
1978 Aug-Oct	157.8	148.9	106.0	124.9	114.1
Nov-Jan 1979	161.8	150.8	107.3	120.8	111.5
Percentage change	+2½	+1½	+1	−3½	−2½

[1] Export unit value index as a percentage of the import unit value index.

Table 5 Balance of trade in oil and in other goods

Balance of payments basis — £ million seasonally adjusted

	Visible balance		
	Total trade	Trade in oil [1]	Trade in other goods
1977	−1 744	−2 791	+1 047
1978	−1 129	−2 015	+886
1977 1st quarter	−946	−781	−165
2nd quarter	−779	−761	−18
3rd quarter	−3	−590	+587
4th quarter	−16	−659	+643
1978 1st quarter	−590	−620	+30
2nd quarter	−173	−414	+241
3rd quarter	−365	−501	+136
4th quarter	−1	−480	+479
1978 August	−2	−102	+100
September	−216	−179	−37
October	+40	−135	+175
November	−108	−162	+54
December	+67	−183	+250
1979 January	−119	−60	−59
1978 Aug-Oct	−178	−416	+238
Nov-Jan 1979	−160	−405	+245

[1] Trade in petroleum and petroleum products.

Table 6 Trade in oil [2]

Balance of payments basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of trade in oil	Exports of oil			Imports of oil				
		Total	Crude oil [1] [SITC (rev 2) 333.0]	Rest of division 33	Total	Crude oil [SITC (rev 2) 333.0]			Rest of division 33
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	Million tonnes	Average value per tonne £ fob	£ million fob
1977	−2 791	1 979	915	1 064	4 770	3 685	68.6	53.8	1 085
1978	−2 015	2 235	1 240	995	4 250	3 285	65.9	49.8	965
1977 1st quarter	−781	464	163	301	1 245	991	18.9	53.0	254
2nd quarter	−761	514	242	272	1 275	1 000	18.3	54.4	275
3rd quarter	−590	568	309	259	1 158	880	16.2	54.3	278
4th quarter	−659	433	201	232	1 092	814	15.2	53.4	278
1978 1st quarter	−620	480	273	207	1 100	848	16.9	50.0	252
2nd quarter	−414	550	312	238	964	742	14.2	52.0	222
3rd quarter	−501	617	341	276	1 118	884	17.8	50.1	234
4th quarter	−480	588	314	274	1 068	811	17.0	47.6	257
1978 August	−102	244	148	96	346	274	5.4	50.4	72
September	−179	194	93	101	373	294	5.9	49.3	79
October	−135	197	107	90	332	246	5.1	47.8	86
November	−162	214	117	97	376	286	6.1	46.8	90
December	−183	177	90	87	360	279	5.8	48.2	81
1979 January	−60	263	176	87	323	246	5.2	47.5	77
1978 Aug-Oct	−416	634	348	286	1 050	813	16.4	49.6	237
Nov-Jan 1979	−405	654	383	271	1 059	811	17.1	47.5	248
Percentage change		+3	+10	−5½	+1	−½	+4	−4	+4½

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Trade in petroleum and petroleum products.

Table 7 Value and volume of exports and imports excluding the more erratic items[1]

Balance of payments basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Exports fob		Imports fob	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
1977	29 554	117.9	31 239	107.4
1978	32 857	124.2	34 334	116.0
1977 1st quarter	6 964	115.4	7 930	110.5
2nd quarter	7 307	117.2	7 771	106.4
3rd quarter	7 769	122.5	7 952	109.0
4th quarter	7 514	116.7	7 586	103.8
1978 1st quarter	7 839	120.8	8 381	116.2
2nd quarter	7 947	121.7	8 314	112.2
3rd quarter	8 493	127.3	8 823	117.8
4th quarter	8 578	126.8	8 816	117.9
1978 August	2 867	128.3	2 865	116.2
September	2 826	126.7	3 048	123.7
October	2 864	127.9	2 888	116.1
November	2 840	125.3	2 968	118.7
December	2 874	127.2	2 960	118.8
1979 January	2 599	114.1	2 719	109.7
1978 Aug-Oct	8 557	127.6	8 801	118.7
Nov-Jan 1979	8 313	122.2	8 646	115.7
Percentage change	−3	−4	−1½	−2½

[1] These are defined as ships, North Sea production installations, aircraft and precious stones.

unaffected. The broad estimates suggest that exports and imports in January were both around £300 million below their underlying level (see note 1). The shortfall is equivalent to about 3 per cent on the three monthly comparisons. This needs to be borne in mind in interpreting the figures given below.

EXPORTS

By area (table 8)

In the three months ended January, the value of exports to the developed countries rose by 3 per cent in comparison with the previous three months. Deliveries to the EEC increased by 1 per cent, while the value of goods despatched to the rest of western Europe rose by 14 per cent, reflecting increased shipments of precious stones. Exports to north America fell by 1½ per cent. Shipments to the other developed countries were marginally lower. Exports to the developing countries in aggregate were down by 6 per cent, with broadly similar falls in shipments to both the oil exporting and the other developing countries. The value of shipments to the centrally planned economies increased by 16 per cent, from a low base level.

Table 8 Exports by area

Overseas Trade Statistics basis — £ million fob seasonally adjusted

		Developed countries					Developing countries			
	Total	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Total	Oil-exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1977	33 331	23 688	12 152	5 606	3 821	2 110	8 636	4 374	4 261	911
1978	37 363	26 392	14 103	5 710	4 245	2 334	9 800	4 767	5 033	1 070
1978 1st quarter	8 881	6 210	3 290	1 363	1 012	545	2 382	1 180	1 202	286
2nd quarter	9 107	6 474	3 479	1 363	1 050	582	2 412	1 223	1 189	244
3rd quarter	9 545	6 719	3 612	1 440	1 080	587	2 502	1 200	1 302	235
4th quarter	9 830	6 990	3 722	1 544	1 104	619	2 505	1 165	1 340	305
1978 November	3 279	2 358	1 263	517	363	216	830	387	442	114
December	3 299	2 379	1 245	552	377	206	810	386	424	94
1979 January	3 011	2 213	1 174	531	338	170	754	345	409	85
1978 Aug-Oct	9 635	6 741	3 652	1 404	1 091	594	2 542	1 195	1 347	251
Nov-Jan 1979	9 589	6 951	3 682	1 600	1 077	592	2 394	1 118	1 275	293
Percentage change	−½	+3	+1	+14	−1½	−½	−6	−6½	−5½	+16

Table 9 Exports by commodity

Overseas Trade Statistics basis — £ million fob seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures[2]									
						Machinery and transport equipment[2]								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other transport equip-ment[1,2]	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manu-factures	Miscel-laneous
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	2 + 4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	79	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6 + 8	9
1977	33 331	2 216	954	2 092	27 113	12 688	8 332	2 872	1 484	3 817	2 877	1 193	6 537	956
1978	37 363	2 912	1 008	2 375	29 984	13 762	9 223	3 070	1 470	4 201	3 114	1 238	7 669	1 083
1978 1st quarter	8 881	698	221	512	7 212	3 321	2 197	759	366	985	744	305	1 820	238
2nd quarter	9 107	726	252	585	7 307	3 439	2 262	796	381	1 030	749	296	1 817	268
3rd quarter	9 545	746	261	652	7 603	3 465	2 354	766	345	1 068	778	310	1 944	263
4th quarter	9 830	743	273	626	7 862	3 537	2 410	749	378	1 118	843	326	2 088	315
1978 November	3 279	256	94	227	2 645	1 204	824	231	150	391	257	114	689	100
December	3 299	241	90	190	2 650	1 145	797	229	119	371	299	103	766	111
1979 January	3 011	204	81	272	2 377	1 090	716	232	141	309	245	93	679	84
1978 Aug-Oct	9 635	738	259	670	7 645	3 509	2 378	801	331	1 075	793	313	1 914	284
Nov-Jan 1979	9 589	700	265	689	7 673	3 439	2 337	692	410	1 070	802	310	2 134	295
Percentage change	−½	−5	+2½	+3	+½	−2	−1½	−14	+24	−½	+1	−1	+12	+4

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Includes North Sea production installations.

By commodity (tables 9, 10, 11 and 16)
The value of exports of manufactured goods (excluding erratic items) in the three months ended January fell by 2½ per cent compared with the previous three months, with volume down by 4 per cent. Within this broad group of commodities, the value of deliveries of machinery fell by 1½ per cent with volume decreasing by 4 per cent. Shipments of road vehicles declined by 14 per cent in value and 15 per cent in volume; these falls are more than accounted for by the effects of the industrial

Table 10 Exports by commodity: volume indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975 = 100 seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures[1]							
						Machinery and transport equipment[1,2]						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manu-factures
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	2 + 4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6 + 8
Weights	1 000	71	26	41	828	419	287	92	107	92	36	174
1977	118.7	111	126	165	118	106	102	105	141	116	120	134
1978	124.0	132	134	209	120	105	101	112	155	117	117	139
1978 1st quarter	121.2	136	120	179	119	103	99	106	145	115	119	140
2nd quarter	122.2	133	137	204	119	107	101	119	153	116	113	131
3rd quarter	126.0	130	138	229	121	105	102	115	157	115	116	140
4th quarter	126.8	130	142	224	122	104	102	108	163	121	120	144
1978 November	126.4	133	144	245	123	105	103	99	172	110	124	144
December	126.9	126	140	199	122	101	100	101	160	128	113	157
1979 January	115.2	108	122	279	109	95	90	100	138	105	101	137
1978 Aug-Oct	126.2	129	135	239	121	105	102	118	158	116	117	135
Nov-Jan 1979	122.8	122	136	241	118	100	98	100	156	114	113	146
Percentage change	−2½	−5½	—	+1	−2	−4½	−4	−15	−1	−2	−3½	+8

[1] Includes North Sea production installations. [2] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 11 Exports by commodity: unit value indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975= 100 not seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment[1]						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manu-factures
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	2 + 4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6 + 8
1977	142.6	137	144	150	143	149	148	152	128	136	139	142
1978	155.0	150	140	140	156	165	165	163	130	149	148	157
1978 1st quarter	149.3	143	135	141	150	160	159	158	128	143	145	147
2nd quarter	152.9	150	141	140	154	161	161	156	130	146	147	158
3rd quarter	157.0	154	142	138	158	167	167	165	131	151	148	158
4th quarter	160.9	153	142	139	163	173	171	174	131	155	151	165
1978 November	161.6	154	144	138	164	174	172	177	131	156	152	165
December	161.9	153	143	143	164	173	172	175	132	156	152	166
1979 January	163.9	153	149	147	166	176	174	180	134	159	156	169
1978 Aug-Oct	158.4	153	142	137	160	170	169	169	131	152	149	161
Nov-Jan 1979	162.5	153	145	142	165	174	173	177	132	157	153	167
Percentage change	+2½	—	+2	+4	+2½	+3	+2	+5	+1	+3	+3	+3½

[1] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 12 Imports by area

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£ million cif seasonally adjusted

		Developed countries					Developing countries			
	Total	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Total	Oil-exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1977	36 978	27 393	14 171	5 576	4 948	2 698	8 162	3 800	4 362	1 371
1978	40 969	31 752	16 584	6 991	5 341	2 834	7 855	3 470	4 385	1 300
1978 1st quarter	9 846	7 423	3 880	1 513	1 303	729	1 960	911	1 049	319
2nd quarter	10 221	8 147	4 101	2 011	1 374	662	1 822	791	1 032	306
3rd quarter	10 475	8 001	4 183	1 747	1 305	765	2 128	957	1 171	314
4th quarter	10 427	8 180	4 422	1 720	1 360	679	1 944	811	1 133	361
1978 November	3 567	2 859	1 517	630	444	268	692	299	393	125
December	3 441	2 648	1 454	554	474	165	623	255	368	143
1979 January	3 290	2 489	1 251	609	427	202	635	271	363	107
1978 Aug-Oct	10 451	8 082	4 265	1 729	1 346	742	2 053	880	1 173	297
Nov-Jan 1979	10 298	7 996	4 222	1 793	1 345	635	1 949	825	1 124	375
Percentage change	−1½	−1	−1	+3½	—	−14	−5	−6½	−4	+26

Table 13 Imports by commodity

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£ million cif seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures [2]						
									Machinery and transport equipment [2]					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manu-factures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other transport equip-ment [1,2]	Other	Miscel-laneous
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2,4,5,6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	79	8	9
1977	36 978	5 937	5 255	13 484	3 670	2 361	7 453	11 797	8 783	5 295	2 134	1 355	3 015	505
1978	40 969	6 142	4 831	14 931	3 422	2 759	8 750	14 501	10 681	6 338	2 795	1 548	3 820	564
1978 1st quarter	9 846	1 515	1 249	3 560	852	638	2 070	3 275	2 426	1 451	670	305	850	122
2nd quarter	10 221	1 544	1 089	3 566	854	667	2 045	3 957	3 044	1 571	711	762	913	131
3rd quarter	10 475	1 582	1 246	3 870	846	682	2 342	3 549	2 554	1 601	727	226	995	177
4th quarter	10 427	1 501	1 247	3 935	870	771	2 294	3 720	2 657	1 714	688	255	1 063	134
1978 November	3 567	567	440	1 410	305	266	839	1 235	883	572	233	78	352	39
December	3 441	477	421	1 223	288	260	675	1 271	920	573	254	92	350	43
1979 January	3 290	463	377	1 242	264	203	775	1 145	844	476	273	94	301	34
1978 Aug-Oct	10 451	1 521	1 181	3 891	837	699	2 355	3 593	2 559	1 645	685	229	1 034	182
Nov-Jan 1979	10 298	1 506	1 238	3 875	857	729	2 289	3 651	2 647	1 622	760	264	1 003	117
Percentage change	−1½	−1	+5	−½	+2½	+4½	−3	+1½	+3½	−1½	+11	+15	−3	−36

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Includes North Sea production installations.

Table 14 Imports by commodity: volume indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975 = 100 seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures [1]				
									Machinery and transport equipment [1,2]			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manu-factures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2,4,5,6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	8
Weights	1 000	177	177	341	92	55	194	283	207	137	37	76
1977	108.9	102	83	116	113	131	113	124	127	117	160	117
1978	117.2	101	81	128	116	158	125	140	141	136	165	139
1978 1st quarter	115.8	101	84	126	116	145	125	132	132	128	173	130
2nd quarter	117.3	101	71	124	117	151	120	155	163	135	170	132
3rd quarter	118.7	104	82	131	113	155	132	136	133	137	168	143
4th quarter	117.0	99	84	132	117	180	125	139	136	144	151	149
1978 November	119.4	111	90	138	125	174	134	140	136	144	154	150
December	116.3	94	85	125	114	195	111	141	139	144	165	147
1979 January	110.9	88	77	128	104	180	123	126	126	121	176	127
1978 Aug-Oct	118.4	102	78	131	114	162	130	137	133	140	156	147
Nov-Jan 1979	115.5	98	84	131	114	183	123	136	134	136	165	141
Percentage change	−2½	−4½	+7½	—	+½	+13	−5½	−½	+1	−2½	+6	−3½

[1] Includes North Sea production installations. [2] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 15 Imports by commodity: unit value indices

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Indices 1975 = 100 not seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment [1]			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manu-factures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2,4,5,6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	8
1977	141.1	132	148	141	145	137	140	143	144	144	155	141
1978	145.3	140	138	144	132	144	149	155	156	149	194	151
1978 1st quarter	140.4	137	137	137	130	140	140	148	150	145	177	142
2nd quarter	144.9	140	141	142	131	144	147	154	155	148	190	151
3rd quarter	146.8	141	139	145	134	144	151	157	158	150	198	154
4th quarter	149.0	142	137	150	134	147	158	160	161	151	209	157
1978 November	148.8	142	135	150	133	146	159	160	161	152	209	156
December	149.7	141	138	151	136	149	159	161	162	152	211	157
1979 January	151.0	142	138	153	139	154	160	162	163	154	209	158
1978 Aug-Oct	147.6	141	138	147	134	144	154	159	160	151	202	156
Nov-Jan 1979	149.8	142	137	152	136	150	159	161	162	152	210	157
Percentage change	+1½	+½	−1	+3	+2	+3½	+3½	+1½	+1½	+1	+3½	+1

[1] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 16 Exports: value and volume indices excluding the more erratic items

Overseas Trade Statistics basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Total [1]		Manufactures					
			Total [1]		Machinery and transport equipment [2]		Other manufactures [3]	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
Weights		919		747		381		131
1977	29 923	116.3	23 705	115	11 241	102	4 576	128
1978	33 460	123.1	26 082	118	12 371	104	5 158	133
1978 1st quarter	7 972	119.6	6 304	117	2 968	101	1 265	135
2nd quarter	8 095	120.8	6 296	116	3 072	106	1 173	122
3rd quarter	8 644	126.1	6 702	121	3 145	105	1 363	138
4th quarter	8 748	125.7	6 780	120	3 186	104	1 357	137
1978 November	2 898	124.4	2 265	120	1 062	103	451	137
December	2 935	126.1	2 286	121	1 036	101	511	155
1979 January	2 645	113.0	2 012	106	957	93	445	132
1978 Aug-Oct	8 710	126.3	6 719	120	3 205	106	1 292	129
Nov-Jan 1979	8 478	121.2	6 563	116	3 056	99	1 407	141
Percentage change	−2½	−4	−2½	−4	−4½	−7	+9	+9½

[1] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations, aircraft and precious stones. [2] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations and aircraft. [3] Excluding precious stones.

Table 17 Imports: value and volume indices excluding the more erratic items

Overseas Trade Statistics basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Total [1]		Industrial materials				Finished manufactures			
			Total [2]		Other semi-manufactures [3]		Total [2]		Machinery and transport equipment [2]	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
Weights		931		304		158		250		174
1977	33 851	107.4	11 693	114	5 662	109	10 461	123	7 446	126
1978	37 105	115.6	12 587	126	6 406	121	12 982	141	9 162	142
1978 1st quarter	9 019	115.1	3 030	123	1 540	120	2 979	135	2 129	138
2nd quarter	8 980	111.5	3 081	124	1 559	118	3 200	139	2 288	142
3rd quarter	9 576	118.6	3 191	127	1 663	125	3 329	144	2 334	144
4th quarter	9 531	117.3	3 285	130	1 644	121	3 474	147	2 411	146
1978 November	3 213	118.3	1 132	133	560	123	1 159	148	807	147
December	3 193	118.0	1 064	129	516	114	1 182	148	831	149
1979 January	2 938	109.2	982	122	515	112	1 053	131	752	133
1978 Aug-Oct	9 551	118.6	3 214	128	1 678	125	3 370	145	2 337	144
Nov-Jan 1979	9 344	115.2	3 178	128	1 592	116	3 394	142	2 390	143
Percentage change	−2	−3	−1	−½	−5	−7	+½	−1½	+2	−½

[1] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations, aircraft and precious stones. [2] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations and aircraft. [3] Excluding precious stones.

Table 18 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted			
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (*fob*)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (*fob*)	Valuation and coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (*fob*)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (*cif*)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (*cif*)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (*fob*)
1977	33 331	33 331	−1 183	32 148	36 978	36 978	−2 089	−997	33 892
1978	37 363	37 363	−1 903	35 460	40 969	40 969	−2 233	−2 147	36 589
1977 1st quarter	7 815	7 755	−235	7 520	9 212	9 144	−556	−122	8 466
2nd quarter	8 469	8 288	−367	7 921	9 762	9 609	−573	−336	8 700
3rd quarter	8 492	8 803	−272	8 531	8 960	9 243	−507	−202	8 534
4th quarter	8 555	8 485	−309	8 176	9 044	8 982	−453	−337	8 192
1978 1st quarter	8 756	8 881	−472	8 409	9 791	9 846	−528	−319	8 999
2nd quarter	9 626	9 107	−355	8 752	10 616	10 221	−544	−752	8 925
3rd quarter	9 051	9 545	−492	9 053	9 995	10 475	−582	−475	9 418
4th quarter	9 930	9 830	−584	9 246	10 567	10 427	−579	−601	9 247
1978 August	3 002	3 194	−186	3 008	3 229	3 449	−191	−248	3 010
September	2 983	3 189	−155	3 034	3 385	3 583	−197	−136	3 250
October	3 398	3 252	−179	3 073	3 573	3 419	−188	−198	3 033
November	3 503	3 279	−255	3 024	3 864	3 567	−203	−232	3 132
December	3 029	3 299	−150	3 149	3 130	3 441	−188	−171	3 082
1979 January	3 059	3 011	−197	2 814	3 424	3 290	−179	−178	2 933
1978 Aug-Oct	9 383	9 635	−520	9 115	10 187	10 451	−576	−582	9 293
Nov-Jan 1979	9 591	9 589	−602	8 987	10 418	10 298	−570	−581	9 147
Percentage change	+2	−½		−1½	+2½	−1½			−1½

dispute at Ford. Chemical exports, which were particularly low in January, were down marginally in value and 1 per cent in volume in the latest three months, while shipments of metals rose by 1 per cent in value, although volume fell by 2 per cent. The value of textile exports was 1 per cent lower, with a volume fall of 3½ per cent. The value of exports of other manufactured goods (excluding precious stones) rose by 9 per cent and volume by 9½ per cent, from slightly low base levels. Exports of non-manufactured goods in total were slightly lower in the three months to January. Within this category, shipments of food, beverages and tobacco fell by 5 per cent in value and 5½ per cent in volume. The value of deliveries of basic materials increased by 2½ per cent, with volume unchanged. Fuel exports were 3 per cent higher.

IMPORTS

By area (table 12)

In the three months ended January, the value of imports from the developed countries was 1 per cent lower than in the previous three months. Deliveries from the EEC fell by 1 per cent, with sharply lower imports in January. Arrivals from the rest of western Europe rose by 3½ per cent, reflecting increased imports of precious stones. Imports from north America were unchanged. There was a decrease of 14 per cent in arrivals from the other developed countries partly reflecting a low December figure. Imports from the developing countries were down by 5 per cent, with falls of 6½ per cent in arrivals from the oil exporting countries and of 4 per cent in deliveries from the other developing countries. There was an increase of 26 per cent in imports from the centrally planned economies, reflecting increased arrivals at the end of last year.

By commodity (tables 13, 14, 15 and 17)

In the three months ended January, imports of food, beverages and tobacco fell by 1 per cent in value and 4½ per cent in volume. Imports of fuels increased by 5 per cent in value and 7½ per cent in volume. Arrivals of industrial materials (excluding precious stones) fell by 1 per cent in value, but were little changed in volume. Within this group, imports of basic materials were 2½ per cent higher in value, almost entirely reflecting higher prices, with only a marginal increase in volume. Deliveries of chemicals increased by 4½ per cent in value and 13 per cent in volume, reflecting increased imports at the end of last year and despite sharply lower arrivals in January. Imports of other semi-manufactures (excluding precious stones) fell by 5 per cent in value and 7 per cent in volume, from high base levels. Arrivals of finished manufactures (excluding the more erratic items) rose marginally in value, but fell by 1½ per cent in volume. Within this group, imports of machinery, also sharply lower in January, fell by 1½ per cent in value and 2½ per cent in volume. Deliveries of road vehicles increased by 11 per cent in value and 6 per cent in volume, although these increases probably largely reflect the effects of the industrial dispute involving Ford last autumn, which depressed imports in the base period. Imports of other finished manufactures (mainly consumer goods) fell by 3 per cent in value and marginally more in volume, reflecting lower arrivals in January.

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Notes to January figures

1 The road haulage dispute. The road haulage dispute began, unofficially, on 3 January; it was made official on 11 January. Its impact became progressively stronger through the month, although certain trade was largely unaffected, in particular trade by air (about 20 per cent of total exports and 18 per cent of total imports), oil shipments (6 per cent and 12 per cent) and foreign roll-on/roll-off trade (roughly 7 per cent of trade). Certain other goods would also have moved, for example, those destined for export which were already at the docks before the commencement of the dispute. Towards the end of the month the situation eased.

The impact of the dispute on the January trade figures reflects, additionally, the way in which the statistics are compiled. For exports the figures relate to information received by HM Customs Statistical Office after the goods have been shipped. On average, there is a delay of about two weeks between shipment and recording; thus, the January export figures will reflect, broadly, goods shipped between mid-December and mid-January.

For imports, the statistics relate closely to goods shipped during the calendar month. The figures will include most of those goods which were unloaded from ships but which remained on the docksides.

It is not possible to estimate the size of the effect of the dispute on what the flows of trade would otherwise have been because of the generally erratic nature of the monthly figures. However, an examination of recent levels of trade excluding the more erratic items suggest that exports and imports were both around £300 million (some 10 per cent of monthly trade) below their underlying levels. These estimates depend critically upon the assessment of the underlying position.

2 The Ford dispute. The main impact of this dispute, which ran from end September until 24 November, on the trade statistics will have occurred in the figures for the months of the fourth quarter.

For January the impact is probably compounded by the road haulage dispute. The available information suggests that the net effect on the visible balance in the latest three months was unfavourable; in the previous three months the net effect was slightly favourable.

3 Revisions. Small revisions have been made to annual figures for both 1977 and 1978. Some improvements have been made to the pricing assumptions underpinning the index numbers. In addition, the monthly figures now incorporate the effect of the regular, annual updating of seasonal factors. As a result, most figures in the tables differ from those in last month's article. The usual footnote denoting a revised estimate has not been included this month.

Standard notes for 1979

Contents of balance of payments article

1 Most of the information relates to UK trade in goods (visible trade). However, some information is also included on services, interest, profits and dividends, and transfers (invisibles). Information on invisibles is given in table 1, as part of the current account of the balance of payments, and also in tables 2 and 3 (see paragraphs 21 to 23). Apart from this, the remaining notes relate, exclusively, to trade in goods.

2 For visible trade, the figures in the tables are of two distinct kinds. In tables 1 to 7, the information is on a balance of payments (BOP) basis, with exports and imports valued fob (free on board, that is excluding the costs of insurance and freight). In tables 8 to 17, the statistics are on an overseas trade statistics (OTS) basis, with the valuation of exports fob, and imports cif (that is including the costs of insurance and freight). There are also certain other differences of valuation and coverage as between the OTS and BOP figures, described in paragraphs 4 and 5 below.

OTS data

3 The OTS data, which are compiled by Customs and Excise from returns made by importers and exporters, or agents, provide the basic information from which the figures on a balance of payments basis are derived. Further details about the OTS data are available in the notes to 'Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom', published monthly by HMSO.

Balance of payments data

Valuation and coverage adjustments

4 The import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the figures recorded in the monthly 'Overseas Trade Statistics'. The adjustments, which are summarised in table 18, are of two types. First, there are valuation adjustments, of which the principal one is the deduction from the import figures of freight and insurance costs. Also included, for the period 1973 Q3 to 1977 Q2, is an adjustment to ensure that, as far as possible, the value of imports from other EEC countries is consistent with the method of payments of monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs) – that is before deduction of the MCA prior to May 1976, and after deduction from that date. The second kind of adjustment relates to coverage. Included under this heading are adjustments to bring in items not in the trade statistics (for example, on the import side, ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners, and to remove those items which are in the trade statistics but where no change of ownership is involved (for example, many re-imported goods such as machinery which may have been shipped abroad to fulfil a construction contract, or goods coming back to the UK after repair overseas). In addition, adjustments are made from time to time to the level of exports to take account of the degree of under-recording revealed by the regular monitoring of the accuracy of the export figures (as described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973). The adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual Pink Book, 'United Kingdom balance of payments 1967-77' (table 2.1 and pages 14-18). Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are preliminary estimates liable to revision.

5 For the monthly *Trade and Industry* article, the adjustments described above are made only for the totals of exports and imports (tables 1, 2 and 4), for these totals, excluding the more erratic items (table 7) and for the figures of trade in petroleum and petroleum products (tables 5 and 6). But quarterly value figures for trade by broad area group (see paragraph 13) on a BOP basis are published quarterly in *Trade and Industry*, and annual value figures for trade by area and by broad commodity group are published in the annual Pink Book (tables 2.2 and 2.3). Index numbers (see paragraphs 9-11) on a BOP basis are available only for total trade (table 4), and for total trade excluding the more erratic items (table 7).

Trade in petroleum and petroleum products

6 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (tables 5 and 6) accounts for most of the trade in fuels (section 3 of SITC (rev 2)) which is included in tables 9 and 13. Import and export figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division, which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc).

7 The seasonally adjusted figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in table 6 are derived from information reported to Customs and Excise. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy, which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and *Energy Trends*. The latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are seasonally unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources can be largely resolved.

8 For imports, the average value of crude oil per tonne in table 6 has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage, and will reflect not only change in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

Unit value and volume indices

9 The purpose of the index numbers, which are expressed with 1975 = 100, is to measure the changes in price and volume of imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in each of the

selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods covered within each heading and different markets or sources of supply).

10 Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year.

11 Because the volume and price indices are base weighted, they do not take account of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product, does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. The figures from 1973 onwards have weights based on the pattern of trade in 1975, and those for the period prior to 1973 are obtained by a referencing of the series based upon 1970 weights. As a result, prior to 1973, the sub-totals and totals will not equal the 1975-weighted sum of components. A full methodological article about the previous series of indices on 1970 = 100 was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. An article published in *Trade and Industry*, 10 February 1978 provides some additional information about the present 1975 = 100 series; a full methodological article on this new series of index numbers is under preparation.

Commodity classification

12 The statistics of visible trade are classified, by commodity, according to the 'Standard international trade classification revision 2 (SITC (rev 2))' which was introduced in January 1978 (see paragraph 24 below). Details of the changes between this classification and the SITC(R) used previously were described in articles in *Trade and Industry*, 21 October 1977 and 10 February 1978. Other useful references are the 'Standard international trade classification, revision 2' published in 1975 by the United Nations and the 'Guide to the classification for overseas trade statistics 1979' published generally annually by HMSO.

Definition of areas [1]

13 The areas used in tables 8 and 12 comprise the following countries:

EEC: West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Denmark and Irish Republic.

Rest of western Europe: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Austria, Andorra, Vatican City, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Spain, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Malta.

North America: United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Greenland, St Pierre and Miquelon.

Other developed countries: Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa.

Centrally planned economies: Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, China, North Korea, Outer Mongolia and Vietnam.

Oil exporting countries: Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei, Dubai, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah, etc, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

Other developing countries: all other countries.

[1] From January 1978, the continental shelf (foreign part), previously included in rest of western Europe, was re-allocated to the appropriate parent country in the overseas trade statistics. It has not been possible to compile figures on this new basis for earlier periods. Any discontinuity at the level of these broad area groups is likely to be comparatively small.

Seasonal adjustment

14 Apart from table 18, the monthly trade figures are published in the *Trade and Industry* article only on a seasonally adjusted basis. The main components of trade (by area and by commodity) are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always exactly add to the seasonally adjusted figures for total trade. The seasonal factors (and length of month adjusters – see paragraph 15) calculated for the value figures are also used to seasonally adjust the volume figures. The seasonal factors are revised annually, and the new figures are incorporated with the article dealing with the January figures. At this time, the monthly value series for the year are revised to bring the sum of the seasonally adjusted figures into line with the estimates for the recorded totals for the year. The unit value indices are not seasonally adjusted. An explanation of the basic methodology used to compute the seasonally adjusted figures was given in *Trade and Industry*, 17 February 1971. A number of improvements has been made over the years, and a revised article is currently being prepared.

Length of month adjustment

15 The monthly trade figures relate, in practice, to information on exports and imports received in a period which approximates to the calendar month (see paragraph 16). Because of differences in the effective working length of each recording period, it is necessary, before applying the usual seasonal adjustment procedures, to attempt to standardise the length of each month for 1 variations in the number of working days in each (virtually) calendar months and 2 the number of documents processed by Customs on different days of the week. These elements of the adjustment are calculated using information on document flows provided by Customs and Excise.

Interpretation of visible trade statistics

Timing

16 The figures for exports relate to information received in the Statistical Office of Customs and Excise up to three working days (two for December) before the end of the calendar month. On average, export documents arrive at Customs statistical office almost a fortnight after the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to information received at the statistical office for goods cleared either under the computerised entry system or the manual system. In the former case, the data cover goods cleared during the calendar month; in the latter the information covers documents received up to the third working day after the end of the month, provided the goods were cleared by customs in the previous month. By April 1979, about 70 per cent of all import entries will be cleared under the computerised system. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

Trade figures excluding the more erratic items

17 Three tables – 7, 16 and 17 – give certain value and volume figures for trade less the more erratic items. The choice of items regarded as erratic is, to some extent, arbitrary, but experience suggests that, in the context of the short-term statistics, trade in North Sea production installations and precious stones and, to a slightly lesser extent, in ships and aircraft, can often have a major influence on the figures. Precious stones (excluding industrial diamonds – see paragraph 24 below) are classified to division 66 'non-metallic mineral manufactures' and the other erratic items to division 79, 'other transport equipment'. The tables contain only those series which include the erratic components. Reference is made in the text, as appropriate, to the figures of trade less these erratic factors. Where no mention is made in the text of these factors, it can be assumed that their impact on the series including them is small.

Trends

18 The monthly seasonally adjusted figures will often contain considerable residual month-to-month variation which will mask the underlying trend. A simple method, which will generally provide a reasonable guide to underlying movements, is to compare the totals for the latest three monthly periods.

Rounding

19 Percentage changes of over 10 are rounded to the nearest whole number. Those of under 10 are rounded to the nearest half.

Revisions to trade figures

20 From January 1979, the frequency of revisions to the visible trade figures in the monthly article will be reduced. Experience suggests that most of these revisions, particularly to the OTS series, can be regarded as insignificant when considered in the context of the variability inherent in the series and the unavoidable imprecision of seasonal adjustment. Where revisions are deemed to be significant they will be made generally as before. In other cases, the intention is to concentrate revisions in fewer months of the year. The new procedures will not impair the quality of the data. There is no change in the procedure for amending data in the monthly publication 'Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom' and for figures supplied by Customs and Excise bill of entry service.

Invisibles (services, interest, profits and dividends and transfers)

21 These cover the following items: exports and imports of services (eg shipping, travel, banking, insurance, military expenditure overseas); earnings of interest, profits and dividends from overseas (eg earnings on UK companies' investment abroad, UK banks' net interest from abroad on the Eurocurrency market) and such earnings from the United Kingdom by non-residents (eg profits of UK subsidiaries of foreign companies and interest payments on borrowing from abroad); transfers (eg migrants' funds, gifts, contributions to and receipts from the EEC budget). The 'gross' figures include a number of items which are appropriately recorded as the net profits or surplus arising on the transactions. Detailed notes on each component are given in the Pink Book, 'United Kingdom balance of payments 1967-77' (chapters 3, 5-7).

22 The category 'invisibles' covers transactions involving the government sector (eg economic grants, interest on government borrowing from abroad, interest on the reserves) as well as transactions by the private sector and public corporations (eg in travel, civil aviation, financial services and profits on overseas investment). The figures given in tables 1 and 2 and in the first three columns of table 3 relate to all categories of invisibles, but transactions involving the general government sector in the United Kingdom (ie central government and local authorities) are excluded from the remaining three columns of table 3, which cover only the transactions of the UK private sector and public corporations. Private transfers are also excluded from these three columns. Detailed statistics on invisibles are released in the CSO's quarterly press notices on the balance of payments and in the March, June, September and December issues of *Economic Trends*.

23 Data on invisibles are not available on a monthly basis (some are reported quarterly, others less frequently) and the latest monthly figures given in the article are therefore projections based on past trends in the quarterly figures; moreover statistics on invisibles are particularly liable to revision.

Revision to commodity classification (see paragraph 12)

24 From January 1979, industrial diamonds have been classified to division 27, 'crude fertilisers and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)' rather than division 66 'non-metallic mineral manufactures'. Figures have been amended back to 1970. In the definition of the erratic items – see paragraph 17 above – precious stones now exclude industrial diamonds.

References

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Seasonal adjustment of United Kingdom overseas trade figures. *Trade and Industry*, 17 February 1971.

Do you use Statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many Government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

Overseas trade analysed in terms of industries: first three quarters 1978

United Kingdom overseas trade for the first three quarters of 1978 is analysed in the table in terms of the producing industries (as defined by the standard industrial classification 1968), in contrast to the overseas trade statistics classification.

Each commodity heading in the trade statistics has been reclassified to the industry of which the commodity is a principal product.

This series of statistics, derived from the basic material of the overseas trade statistics, was first presented in an article in the February 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. The article discussed the uses and limitations of this alternative form of presenting trade data together with figures for the years 1970 to 1973.

Business Monitor

Business Monitor M 10, to be published on 26 February, presents estimates of the value of imports and exports of each minimum list heading (MLH) of manufacturing industry. Moreover, for the first time, the monitor shows even greater industrial detail: 43 MLHs have been subdivided into 140 sub-groups. This sub-division has been undertaken in order to increase comparability with data relating to sales, employment, capital expenditure, etc, available from other inquiries and to facilitate the analysis and monitoring of overseas trade performance by the sector working parties of the Industrial Strategy.

Note. The introduction of a revised trade classification of broader coverage and revisions to the industrial allocation of certain products have resulted in a number of discontinuities with figures for earlier periods. Comparisons over time should therefore be undertaken only with caution.

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'T & I' index inquiries

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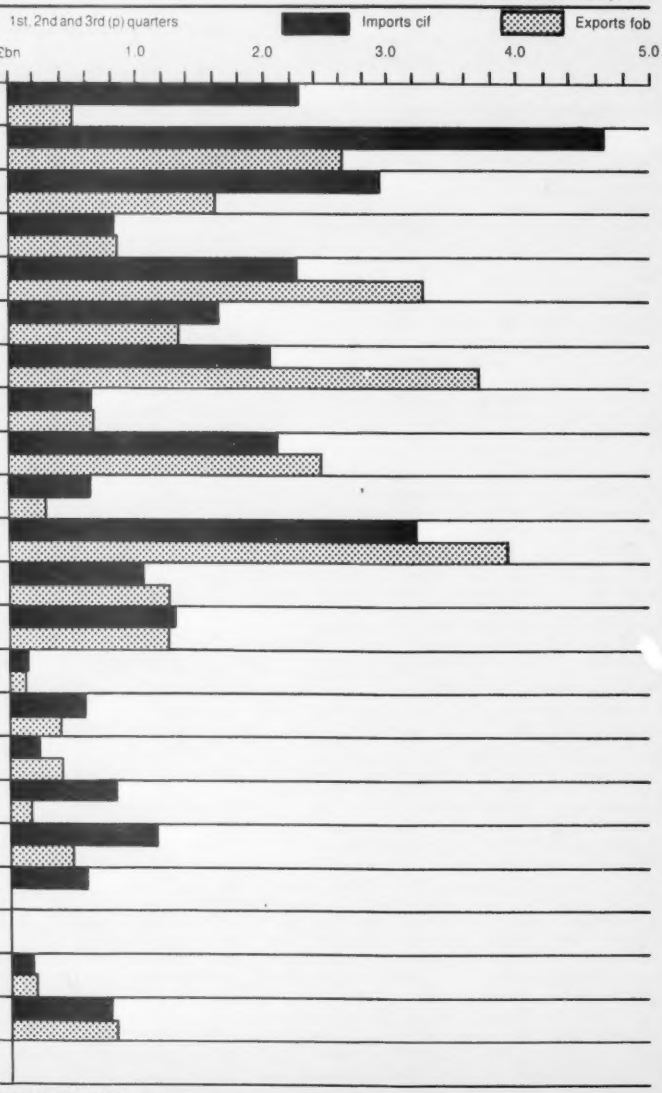
UK overseas trade analysed in terms of industries: 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarters 1978 (p)

£million, current prices

SIC order no. and industry	1st qtr		2nd qtr		3rd qtr	
	Imports cif	Exports fob	Imports cif	Exports fob	Imports cif	Exports fob
I Agriculture, forestry and fishing	767.1	197.8	795.4	167.9	713.9	151.1
II Mining and quarrying	1 579.5	802.2	1 352.0	916.1	1 718.5	920.7
III Food, drink and tobacco	935.8	499.6	980.4	548.9	1 002.9	552.3
IV Coal and petroleum products	323.7	236.7	243.1	269.1	259.4	345.1
V Chemicals and allied industries	733.5	1 035.5	769.9	1 181.0	761.0	1 098.0
VI Metal manufacture	544.0	402.4	577.0	469.0	541.0	434.8
VII Mechanical engineering	641.3	1 211.8	722.5	1 302.3	665.1	1 182.1
VIII Instrument engineering	205.0	220.0	236.4	238.2	236.3	224.4
IX Electrical engineering	663.4	780.0	735.9	884.0	724.9	818.1
X Shipbuilding and marine engineering	55.6	126.6	549.2	110.7	47.2	113.8
XI Vehicles	1 079.2	1 313.5	1 129.6	1 417.6	1 002.7	1 219.6
XII Metal goods not elsewhere specified	336.9	399.1	332.6	441.9	378.0	392.0
XIII Textiles	437.3	394.6	455.0	417.0	461.1	401.7
XIV Leather, leather goods and fur	50.8	51.4	55.4	57.0	53.8	50.3
XV Clothing and footwear	226.0	130.4	210.5	133.4	240.0	149.1
XVI Bricks, pottery, glass, cement, etc	79.1	139.7	87.2	151.7	85.1	136.7
XVII Timber, furniture, etc	235.1	62.8	285.5	70.2	311.4	60.7
XVIII Paper, printing and publishing	383.3	183.0	410.4	196.5	382.1	193.7
XIX Other manufacturing industries	182.4	210.9	204.8	245.9	201.2	224.2
XXI Gas and electricity	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous [1]	83.8	70.2	80.8	70.9	50.4	99.9
Residual heading	248.5	283.7	274.2	292.4	268.2	262.5
Total UK trade	9 791.4	8 751.8	10 487.8	9 581.7	10 104.3	9 030.8



Imports and exports of certain restricted items are not included in industry totals but in the residual heading.

[1] The miscellaneous heading includes paintings, sculptures, antiques, stamps of philatelic interest, cinematograph film, photographic prints, etc p Provisional.

Patents recorded 'licences of right'

Under section 46 of the Patents Act 1977 the register was noted 'licences of right' in respect of the following patents on the date specified.

22 January 1979

1414731 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Improvements in shock-absorbing bumpers for motor vehicles

1442724 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Installation for conveying and machining cast work pieces

1454635 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Improvements in or relating to methods of casting metal articles in moulds

1454723 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Internal combustion engine fed with a stratified double charge

1455626 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Improvement in or relating to apparatus for manufacturing wheels by low-pressure casting

1457549 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Improvements in or relating to the reinforcement of vehicle doors

1459301 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Improvements in composite bumpers for vehicles and method of manufacturing same

1459504 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Window guide channel

1465243 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
A releasable pipe connector

1474876 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Improvements in or relating to the forging of metal components

1475058 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Rear view mirrors

1476884 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Improvements in pressure drop indicators for a braking system comprising two independent circuits

1481924 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Improvements in safety fuel tank filler caps

1490875 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Improvements relating to guide devices for drawers or trays

1492697 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
A suspension device

1497433 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Automobiles Peugeot
Motor vehicle bumpers

1062443 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault
Improvements relating to implement height-control mechanisms for farming tractors

1092544 Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault
Improved method of generating a curve, applicable to tracing or milling machines

1273458 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
An electronically controlled fuel injection system

1277398 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Crankcase ventilating system for fuel injection type internal combustion engine

1284346 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
A carburettor for an automotive internal combustion engine

1285106 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Ignition timing changeover device

1290556 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
A start-up fuel injection system

1294760 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Liquefied fuel gas container

1297888 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Carburettor of variable-area choke type

1305616 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Carburettor of variable-area chock-type for an automotive internal combustion engine

1306167 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Vapour power plant

1307377 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
An ignition timing change-over device in combination with a mechanism having a rotatable timing governor plate

1311020 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Power transmission

1311557 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Fluid operated position selecting device

1319152 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Engine overrun preventing device for internal combustion engine

1325091 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
A hydraulic pressure regulating value

1328135 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
A multi-leaf spring primarily for an automotive suspension

1330406 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Pressurised gas supply unit

1331628 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Fuel injection system

1332311 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
Fuel shutoff device for internal combustion engine

1343323 Nissan Motor Co Ltd
A safety device for a motor vehicle

1207093 Matsushita Electronics Corporation
Improvements in or relating to schottky barrier semiconductor

1417515 Matsushita Electronics Corporation
High-pressure metal-vapour discharge tube

1449703 Matsushita Electronics Corporation
High-pressure metal-vapour discharge lamp

1353881 Matsushita Electric Industrial Co Ltd
Tuning resonance circuits

1452180 Matsushita Electric Industrial Co Ltd
Cerium-activated yttrium silicate phosphor

1521946 Sprague Electric Co
Improvements in wet electrolyte capacitors and methods of making the same

1523059 Sprague Electric Co
Improvements in and relating to electrical capacitors

1351248 Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft
Improvements in and relating to apparatus for enabling microfilm to be evaluated

1387314 Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft
Improvements in abd relating to microfilm reading apparatus

1277918 Lafarge
Improvements in the manufacture of super-white cements

1291560 Lafarge
Improvements in the manufacture of super-white cements

1202144 Bristowe Buckland Saxton
Improvements in methods for the production of cylindrical flanged casings or reels and in apparatus therefor

1279790 Gutehoffhung shutte Sterkrade Aktiengeselischaft
Separator for separating a liquid from a mixture of the liquid and a compressible fluid

1380344 Blau K.G. Fabrik Fuer Kraftfahrzeugteile
A bayonet catch cover

1459714 International Standard Electric Corporation
Data procession system for scanning test points

1488884 Mario Bruno
Improvements in or relating to mechanical saws

1492891 Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen
Improvements in or relating to anthropomorphological dummies

1497713 Paumellerie Electrique S.A.
Improvements in or relating to a door holding device for example for an automobile vehicle

1500693 EMI ltd
Improvements in or relating to ultrasonic imaging systems

1510716 Natale Cantone
An agricultural machine

Any person who claims that the proprietor of the patent is, and was at the time of entry, precluded by a contract in which the claimant is interested from granting licences under the patent may, within three months after the making of the relevant entry, apply to the Comptroller on patents form 31/77 for cancellation of the entry.

I. J. G. Davis, Comptroller

The British Film Fund (the 'Eady' levy)

Provisional distributions made by the British Film Fund Agency for the five week period ended 30 December 1978 [1].

Title of film	Date of registration	Provisional payment (£)	Payee [2]
High cost films [3]			
The People That Time Forgot	30. 6.77	496	American International Productions (England) Ltd
Emily	7. 3.77	148	Brent Walker Film Distributors Ltd
The Stud	11. 4.78	8 836	Brent Walker Film Distributors Ltd
The Duellists	9.12.77	277	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
The Eagle Has Landed	11. 3.77	209	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Full Circle	21. 4.78	105	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Watership Down	22. 9.78	95 120	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Confessions Of A Driving Instructor	21. 7.76	7 945	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Confessions Of A Window Cleaner	28. 8.74	7 945	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Jabberwocky	25. 3.77	210	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Midnight Express	21. 7.78	24 190	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Rosie Dixon Night Nurse	10. 2.78	240	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Sinbad And The Eye Of The Tiger	23. 6.77	717	Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd
Born To Run	16. 9.77	1 002	Walt Disney Productions Ltd
Candleshoe	8. 2.78	6 036	Walt Disney Productions Ltd
Death On The Nile	28. 9.78	53 848	EMI Films Ltd
The Man Who Fell To Earth	17. 3.76	248	EMI Films Ltd
Sweeney 2	17. 4.78	1 812	EMI Films Ltd
To The Devil . . . A Daughter	20. 2.76	125	EMI Films Ltd
Stevie	30.10.78	1 193	Enterprise Pictures Ltd
Black Joy	31.10.77	123	Hemdale International Films Ltd
Hound Of The Baskervilles	30.10.78	4 591	Hemdale International Films Ltd
Tommy	15. 4.75	2 698	Hemdale International Films Ltd
Blue Belle	14. 2.77	124	Miracle Films Ltd
International Velvet	19. 7.78	5 966	Peerford Ltd
The Ghoul	28. 5.75	276	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Holocaust 2000	20. 2.78	226	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Legend Of The Werewolf	30.10.75	276	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
The Sailor Who Fell From Grace With The Sea	22. 7.76	149	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
The Shout	2. 6.78	372	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
The Thirty-Nine Steps	20.11.78	7 970	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
The Wild Geese	5. 7.78	25 812	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
The Silent Witness	5. 5.78	523	SJ Film Distributors Ltd
Cruel Passion	17. 2.78	219	Target International Pictures Ltd
The Man With The Golden Gun	11.12.74	502	United Artists Corporation Ltd
Revenge Of The Pink Panther	13. 7.78	14 189	United Artists Corporation Ltd
The Spy Who Loved Me	6. 7.77	356	United Artists Corporation Ltd
From Beyond The Grave	14. 3.74	103	Warner Bros Distributors Ltd
Low cost films [4]			
Under The Doctor	21.10.76	128	Alpha Films Ltd
What's Up Nurse	11. 5.77	511	Blackwater Film Productions Ltd
What's Up Superdoc	21. 9.78	10 400	Blackwater Film Productions Ltd
A Lustful Lady	26. 6.78	257	Border Film Productions (London) Ltd
Naughty Girls	4. 9.75	358	Border Film Productions (London) Ltd
Satan's Slave	1.12.76	10 710	Brent Walker Film Distributors Ltd
Secrets Of A Superstud	23. 6.76	326	Meadway International Productions Ltd
Frightmare	3. 2.75	798	Miracle Films Ltd
Girls Come First	3. 7.75	5 205	New Realm Distributors Ltd
Just One More Time	3. 7.74	172	New Realm Distributors Ltd
Office Party	9. 7.76	1 265	New Realm Distributors Ltd
The Rise And Fall Of Ivor Dickie	29. 3.78	526	New Realm Distributors Ltd
Under The Bed	26. 1.77	457	New Realm Distributors Ltd
You're Driving Me Crazy	21. 6.78	796	New Realm Distributors Ltd
Initimate Teenage Secrets	2. 3.76	163	Nitrev Entertainments Ltd
Erotic Inferno/ Adam And Nicole	20. 5.75	301	Reynoldstown Ltd
Let Us Play Sex/ The Intruder	1. 6.76	301	Reynoldstown Ltd
Adventures Of A Plumbers Mate	30. 3.78	1 121	Salon Productions Ltd
Adventures Of A Private Eye	16. 3.77	275	Salon Productions Ltd

Title of film	Date of registration	Provisional payment (£)	Payee [2]
Adventures Of A Taxi Driver	17. 5.76	1 243	Salon Productions Ltd
On The Game	17. 1.74	226	Salon Productions Ltd
Hard Core	7. 3.77	165	Target International Pictures Ltd
Let's Get Laid	2. 6.78	3 593	Target International Pictures Ltd
Sweet Virgin	8. 3.78	486	Target International Pictures Ltd
Come Play With Me	25. 3.77	1 628	Tigon Film Distributors Ltd
Intimate Games	21. 4.76	397	Tigon Film Distributors Ltd
The Playbirds	19. 6.78	7 247	Tigon Film Distributors Ltd
East Of Elephant Rock	13. 1.78	334	Trident-Barber Distributors Ltd
Big Banana Feet	31.10.77	120	Unicorn Leisure Ltd
Freelance	20. 3.75	127	United Artists Corporation Ltd
The Comeback	22. 5.78	1 850	Peter Walker (Heritage) Ltd
Short films [1]			
Highways And Byways	8. 2.78	249	Caerickford Productions Ltd
Beyond The Sound Barrier	6. 4.78	792	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Harvest	6. 9.78	1 754	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Hot Wheels	5. 9.78	98 135	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Iron Men	30. 8.78	676	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Sailorman	10.11.76	158	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Trinidad And Tobago	7. 3.78	404	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Wednesday Country	25. 9.75	185	Cinema International Corporation (UK)
Crime Case Book	8. 7.75	118	EMI Films Ltd
Footsteps	28.10.74	445	EMI Films Ltd
Natural High – The Commodores On Tour	27. 6.78	1 385	EMI Films Ltd
Oriental Nightfish	28. 9.78	165	EMI Films Ltd
A Pride Of Penguins	23. 2.77	862	Films of Scotland
Dawnbreakers	2. 1.76	486	Hemdale International Films Ltd
Woodland Harvest	24. 5.77	311	Hemdale International Films Ltd
Dear Marjorie	7. 9.77	485	New Realm Distributors Ltd
Boobs			
One Day My Prince Will Come	10.10.73	477	New Realm Distributors Ltd
Snake Bite	21. 6.78	174	New Realm Distributors Ltd
A Matter Of Taste	28. 6.77	266	Polonius Film Services
The Meeting Place	19.12.77	249	Polonius Film Services
Balatoh	10. 9.76	118	Polonius Film Ltd
California Triple	21. 8.78	537	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Flight Without Feathers	23. 8.76	140	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Gateway To The Presidents	27. 5.76	111	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Golden Gate	27.10.75	117	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Good Health	3.11.78	2 080	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Good Olde England	29.11.77	246	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Great Adventure	19.12.77	121	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Guns At Wood	8.12.75	749	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Highway 5	29.11.77	184	Queensway Promotions Ltd
The Italian Taste	21. 8.78	380	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Sabre 226	31. 3.78	365	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Sea World	19.12.77	1 248	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Three Jewels	5. 7.77	170	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Two Man Made Wonders	19. 3.75	274	Queensway Promotions Ltd
Yep And Nope	18. 6.75	386	Queensway Promotions Ltd
The Angelos Incident	19. 7.77	195	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Captain Scott Goes East	24. 8.78	1 942	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Fast Company	3. 2.78	180	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Great Pram Race	1. 2.78	1 396	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Happy To Meet	8. 8.75	269	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Hobb's Choice	14. 4.78	176	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
RH And DR	7. 4.78	118	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
Seven Days In Summer	15.12.76	247	Rank Film Distributors Ltd
The End Of The Road	26. 9.77	108	United Artists Corporation Ltd
London Skateboards	20. 7.78	846	United Artists Corporation Ltd
The Speed Sailors	24. 5.77	195	United Artists Corporation Ltd
Wedgewood	28. 6.78	827	Wright and Webb Syrett and Sons

[1] Excludes all films earning less than £100 in the current period and all newsreels. Details of these films will be shown in the annual tables. [2] The payee is either the maker or the assignee of the maker's rights, or a person nominated to receive payments on behalf of the maker or his assignee. [3] Long films (ie films with a running time of 33⅓ minutes and over) the labour costs of which exceed £50,000. [4] Long films, the labour costs of which do not exceed £50,000. [5] Films with a running time of less than 33⅓ minutes.

More British long films registered in 1978

The number of British 'long' films (over 72 minutes) rose last year to 51 – nine more than in 1977 – regaining some of the ground lost since 1976 when 64 were registered.

Figures are given in the Department of Trade's film registration statistics for 1978 for

Countries of origin of foreign and community films registered in 1978

Countries of origin	Playing time: Over 72 minutes		33⅓-72 minutes		Under 33⅓ minutes	
	Foreign	Community	Foreign	Community	Foreign	Community
Belgium	—	—	—	1	—	2
Bermuda	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bulgaria	—	—	1	—	—	—
Czechoslovakia	1	—	—	—	1	—
Denmark	1	—	—	—	—	—
France	6	18	—	5	1	—
Germany (FR)	2	9	1	1	—	—
Greece	5	—	—	—	—	—
Guyana	—	—	—	—	1	—
Hungary	1	—	—	—	—	—
Israel	1	—	—	—	—	—
Italy	6	21	—	—	1	—
Japan	3	—	—	—	—	—
Lebanon	1	—	—	—	—	—
Liechtenstein	1	—	—	—	—	—
Netherlands	4	—	—	—	—	—
South Africa (Rep)	1	—	—	—	—	—
Spain	1	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden	5	—	1	—	—	—
Switzerland	2	—	—	—	—	—
USA	114	—	3	—	4	—
USSR	2	—	—	—	—	—
Yugoslavia	1	—	—	—	—	—
Joint productions						
France/Belgium	—	2	—	—	—	—
France/Canada	—	1	—	—	—	—
France/Germany (FR)	—	2	—	—	—	—
France/Italy	1	4	—	—	—	—
France/Italy/ Germany (FR)	—	3	—	—	—	—
France/Spain	—	1	—	—	—	—
Others	14 [1]	—	2 [2]	—	2 [3]	—
Totals	174	61	8	7	10	2

[1] Includes two films made by UK companies and 11 films made by Commonwealth companies; application was not made for British registration. Also one film whose status as a co-production made under the UK-Canada agreement was subsequently confirmed. [2] Two films made by Commonwealth companies; application was not made for British registration. [3] Includes one film made by a UK company and one by a Commonwealth company; application was not made for British registration.

Films Acts 1960-70: Registration statistics for the year ended 31 December 1978

Summary of registrations (corresponding 1977 figures in brackets)

Playing time	Number of films: British Quota		British Non-quota		Community		Foreign		Registered playing time (minutes): British Quota		British Non-quota		Community		Foreign	
Over 72 minutes	50 [1]	(42)	1	(—)	61	(84)	174	(192)	4 994	(4 062)	95	(—)	5 904	(7 993)	17 648	(18 816)
33⅓ to 72 minutes	8	(16)	—	(—)	7	(5)	8	(8)	354	(813)	—	(—)	468	(338)	454	(485)
Under 33⅓ minutes	69 [2]	(64)	3	(—)	2	(4)	10	(24)	1 214	(1 123)	59	(—)	22	(48)	115	(315)
Newsreels	52	(52)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	416	(415)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)

[1] Includes one film made under the UK-France co-production agreement, one film under the UK-Italy co-production agreement, five films, one of which was formerly registered as foreign, made under the UK-Canada co-production agreement, one film from Australia and one from Canada. [2] Includes one film made by a government department and three films from New Zealand, one film from Australia and three films from Canada, all of which were made by government bodies.

British, community and foreign films.

From all sources, 286 long films were registered, 32 less than in the previous year.

The total number of all category registrations was 445 compared with 491 in 1977.

Inquiries: Department of Trade, Room 451, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB, tel. 01-215 5478.

British Film Fund Agency returns

The British Film Fund Agency has authorised the publication of the following information for the five weeks ended 30 December 1978:

	£
Distributors' earnings submitted	
Low-cost films:	
Eligible (after multiplying by 2½)	44 158
Not eligible for 2½ times rental	96 514
	140 672
High cost films (including newsreels after multiplying by 2½)	672 283
	812 955
Films under 3000 ft (after multiplying by 2½)	333 536
	£1 146 491
Levy collections paid to agency by Customs and Excise to 9 January 1979 including an estimate of collections approximatedly covering entertainments for the five weeks ended 30 December 1978.	£510 000

The Second interim allocation for the twenty-second year will be at the rate of 38 per cent.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 16 February 1979.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
BRITISH					
The Detour	BR/E 39931/18/2/84	34	12 February	GTO Films (Distributions) Ltd	Barkarow Ltd
And All That Jazz	BR/E 39933/18/2/84	47	14 February	Tedderwick Ltd	Finecord Ltd
Movietone News 2593	BR/E 39834/18/2/84	8	16 February	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
COMMUNITY					
Just A Gigolo	EC 39935/18/2/84	105	15 February	Tedderwick Ltd	Leguan Film GmbH and Co, Berlin
Sextasy (Marche Pas Sur Mes Lacets)	EC 39936/18/2/84	84	15 February	Inter-Ocean Film Distributors Ltd	Films du Griffon Imp Ex Cl and Film J. Leitienne Burckle Productions, Paris
Soft Places	EC 39938/18/2/84	80	15 February	Oppidan Entertainments Ltd	Ab Filmverleih GmbH, Munich
FOREIGN					
National Lampoon's Animal House	F 39928	109	12 February	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
Wilderness Family Part 2	F 39929	105	12 February	Pacific International Enterprises (GB) Ltd	Pacific International Enterprises Inc, Oregon
The Waterloo Bridge Handicap	F 39932	21	13 February	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Fetter Productions, London
Same Time Next Year	F 39934	120	14 February	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
Return From Witch Mountain	F 39937	94	15 February	Walt Disney Productions Ltd	Walt Disney Productions, California
Too Many Chefs	F 39939	112	16 February	GTO Films (Distributions) Ltd	Geria Bavaria Productions, Munich

CORRECTION TO THE REGISTER

The registration number of the film 'French Erotic Fantasies', registered on 22 January 1979, has been corrected to EC 39882/28/1/84 and the name of the maker to Shangrila Productions and FFCM, Paris.

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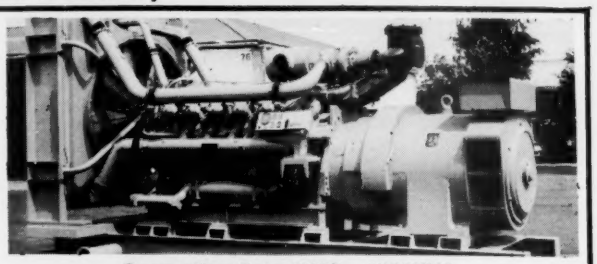

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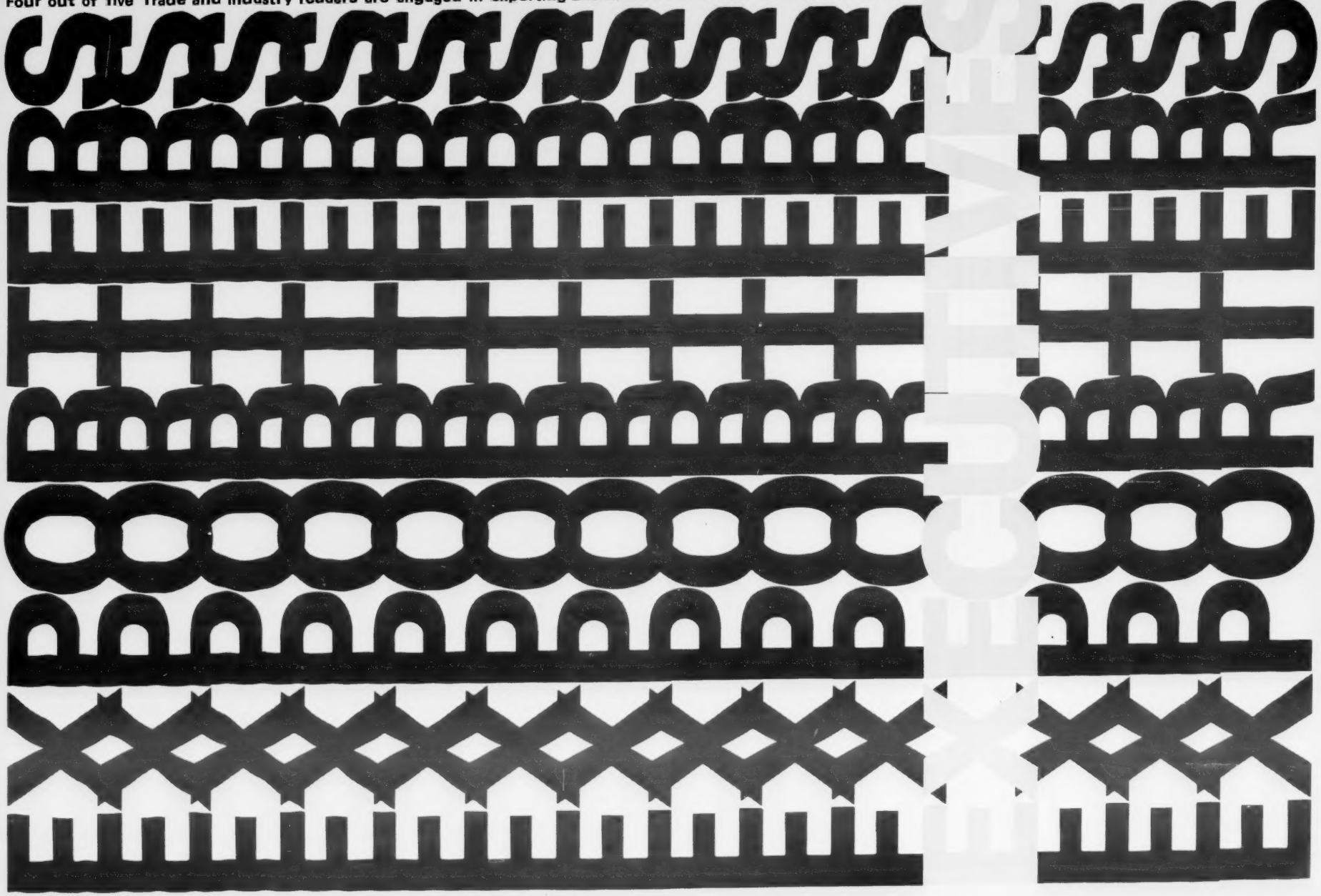

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